



DETER PARKER, THE
SPIDER-MAN
SPECTACULAR

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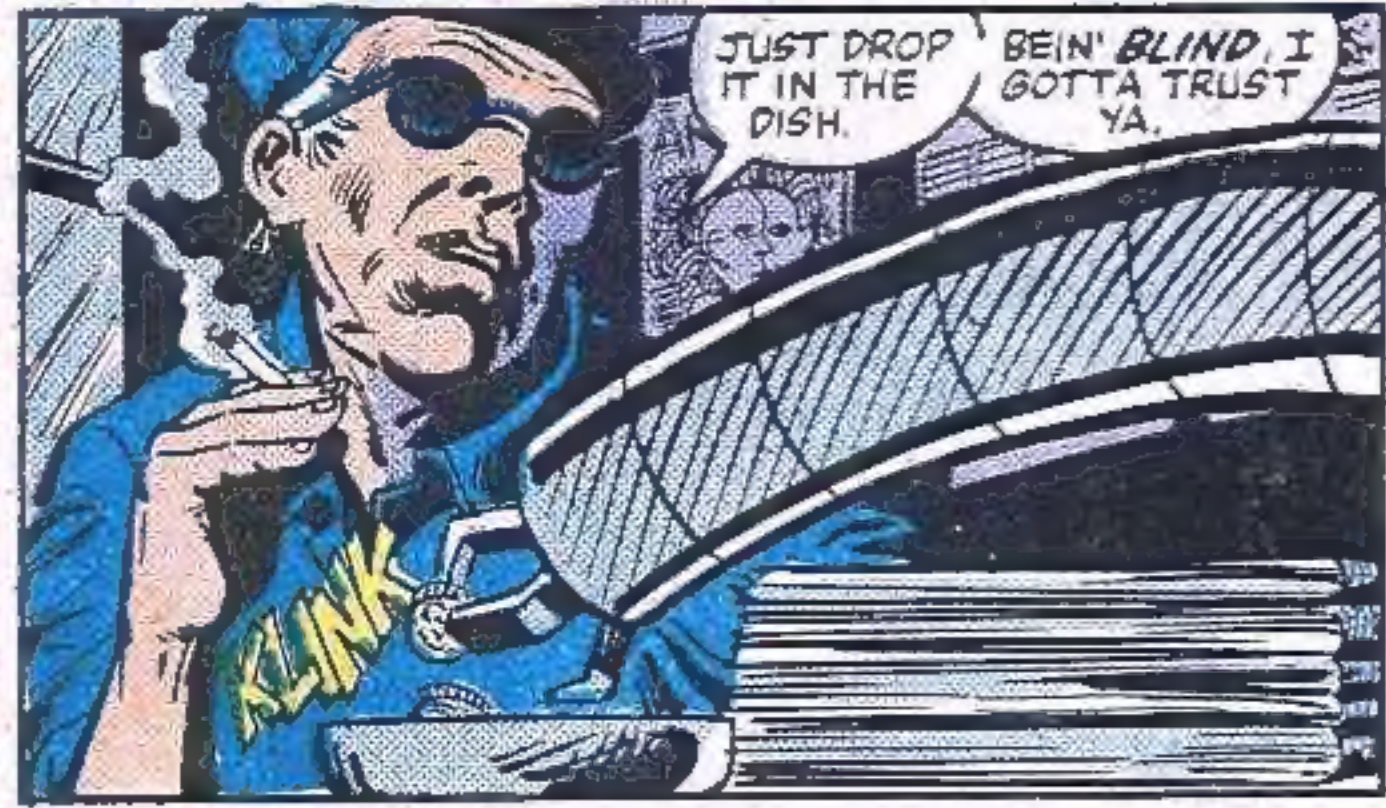
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WAITING FOR DOCTOR
OCTOPUS!



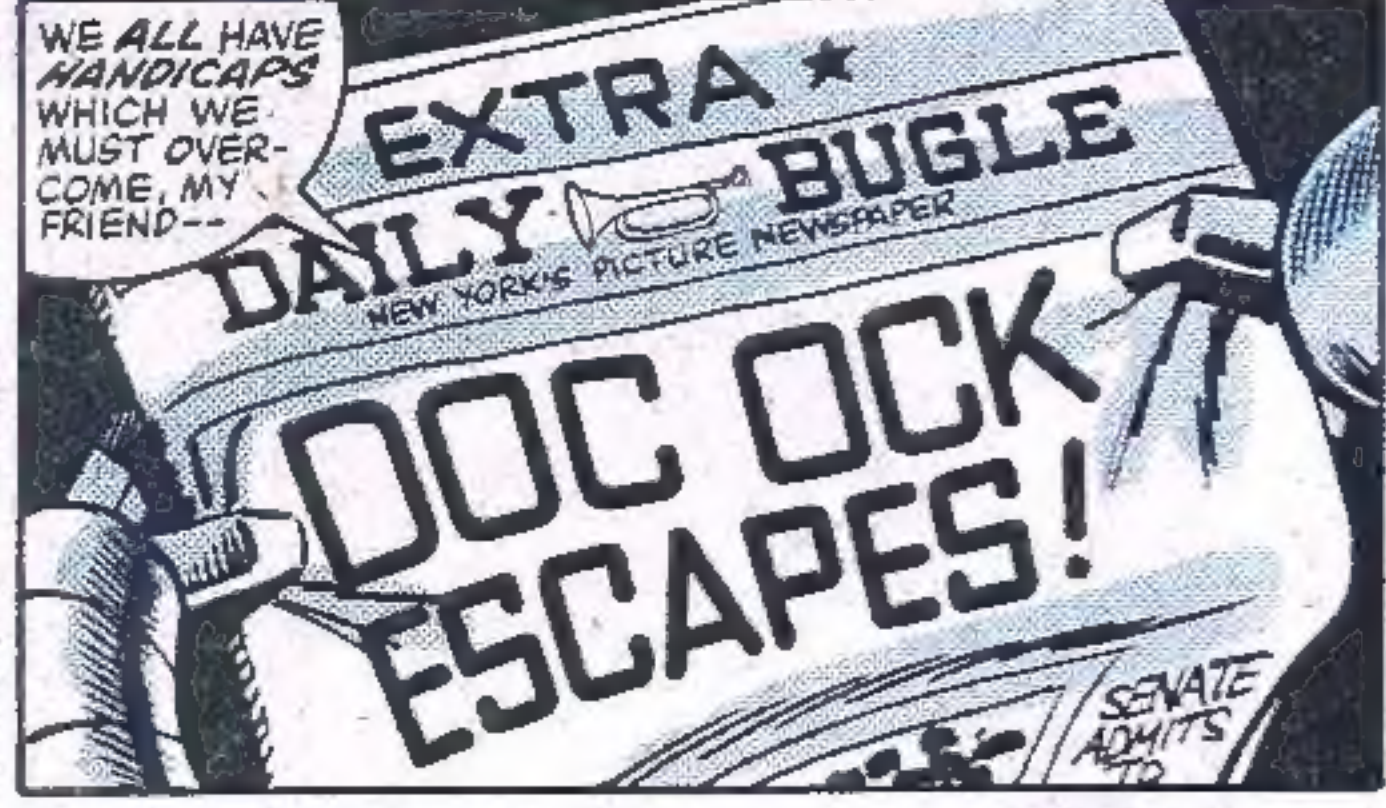
I'D LIKE A DAILY BUGLE.

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS, PAL.



JUST DROP IT IN THE DISH.

BEIN' BLIND, I GOTTA TRUST YA.



WE ALL HAVE HANDICAPS WHICH WE MUST OVERCOME, MY FRIEND--



--IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

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DOCTOR OCTOPUS WOULD HAVE TO
ESCAPE FROM THE SLAMMER NOW--

--JUST WHEN PETER
PARKER IS SUPPOSED
TO BE DEVOTING ALL HIS
ATTENTION TO PASSING
HIS FINAL EXAMS!

STORY BY
BILL MANTLO

ILLUSTRATED BY
RICK MAGYAR

ART BY
ED HANNIGAN
&
AL MILGROM

LETTERING
BY
NOVAK

COLORING
BY
WILSON

EDITED BY
TOM DEPALCO

JIM SHOOTER
SERGEANT-
AT-ARMS

WAITING FOR
DOCTOR
OCTOPUS!





I'LL BET THAT RADIOACTIVE SPIDER THAT BIT ME AND GAVE ME HIS PROPORTIONATE STRENGTH, SPEED AND AGILITY NEVER HAD TO FACE ANYTHING LIKE FINALS, OR SUPER-POWERED ENEMIES!



NOT TO MENTION GIRL- TROUBLES OF THE SORT I'M HAVING --

-- WITH A CERTAIN SCHOOL SECRETARY NAMED DEBRA WHITMAN!

HEY! WHAT'S THAT MUFFLED SOUND?!



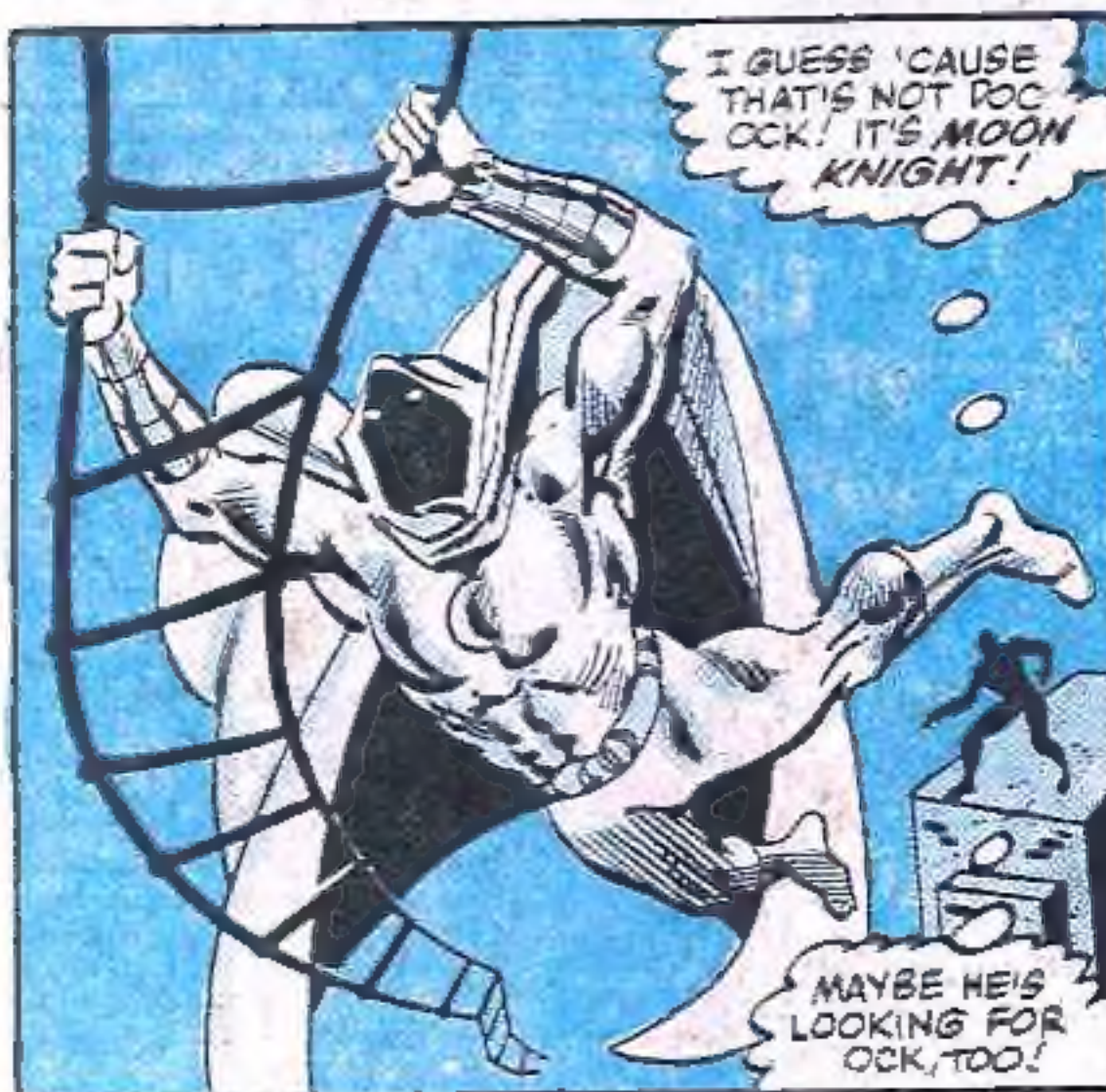
SOME KIND OF STRANGELY- DESIGNED HELICOPTER! IT'S PRACTICALLY NOISELESS...

...AND SOMEONE'S CLIMBING ABOARD!



DOC OCK'S USED SOPHISTICATED HELICOPTERS IN THE PAST! THAT COULD BE HIM!

BUT WHY DOESN'T MY SPIDER-SENSE THINK SO?!



I GUESS 'CAUSE THAT'S NOT DOC OCK! IT'S MOON KNIGHT!

MAYBE HE'S LOOKING FOR OCK, TOO!



NAH! WHO'M I KIDDING? DR. OCTOPUS WAS, IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE THIS LI'L WEB-SLINGER'S PERSONAL PROBLEM!

LUCKY ME!

WELL, THERE'S STILL NO SIGN OF HIM, AND IT'S GETTING LATE! I SUPPOSE EVEN SUPER-VILLAINS HAVE TO SLEEP SOME- TIME!



AND ME--
I'VE GOTTA
STUDY!

NO ONE'S
OUT TONIGHT--
EXCEPT THAT
CRAZY ARTIST
DRAWING WATER
TOWERS!

WHERE
THE HECK
IS OLLIE?

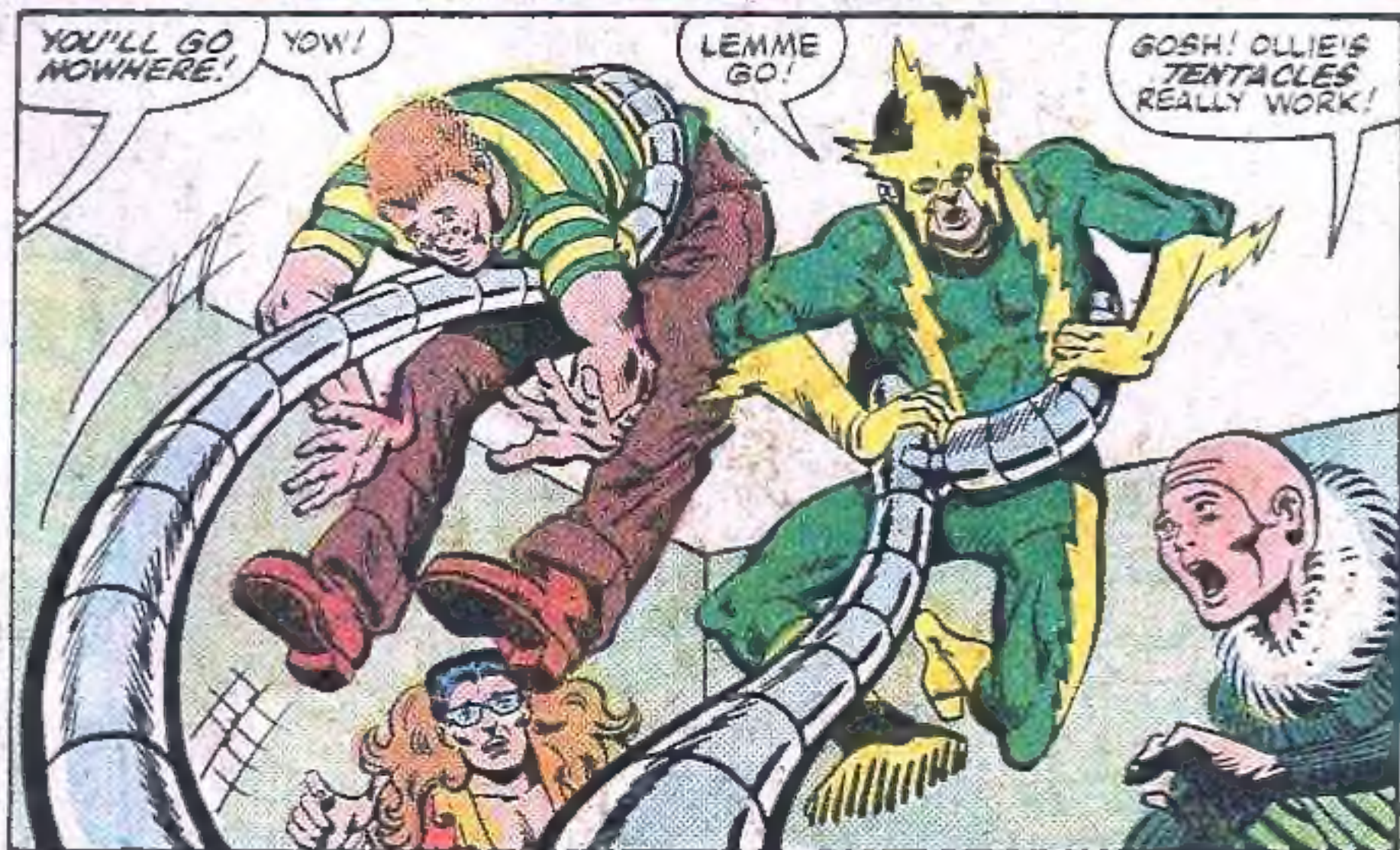
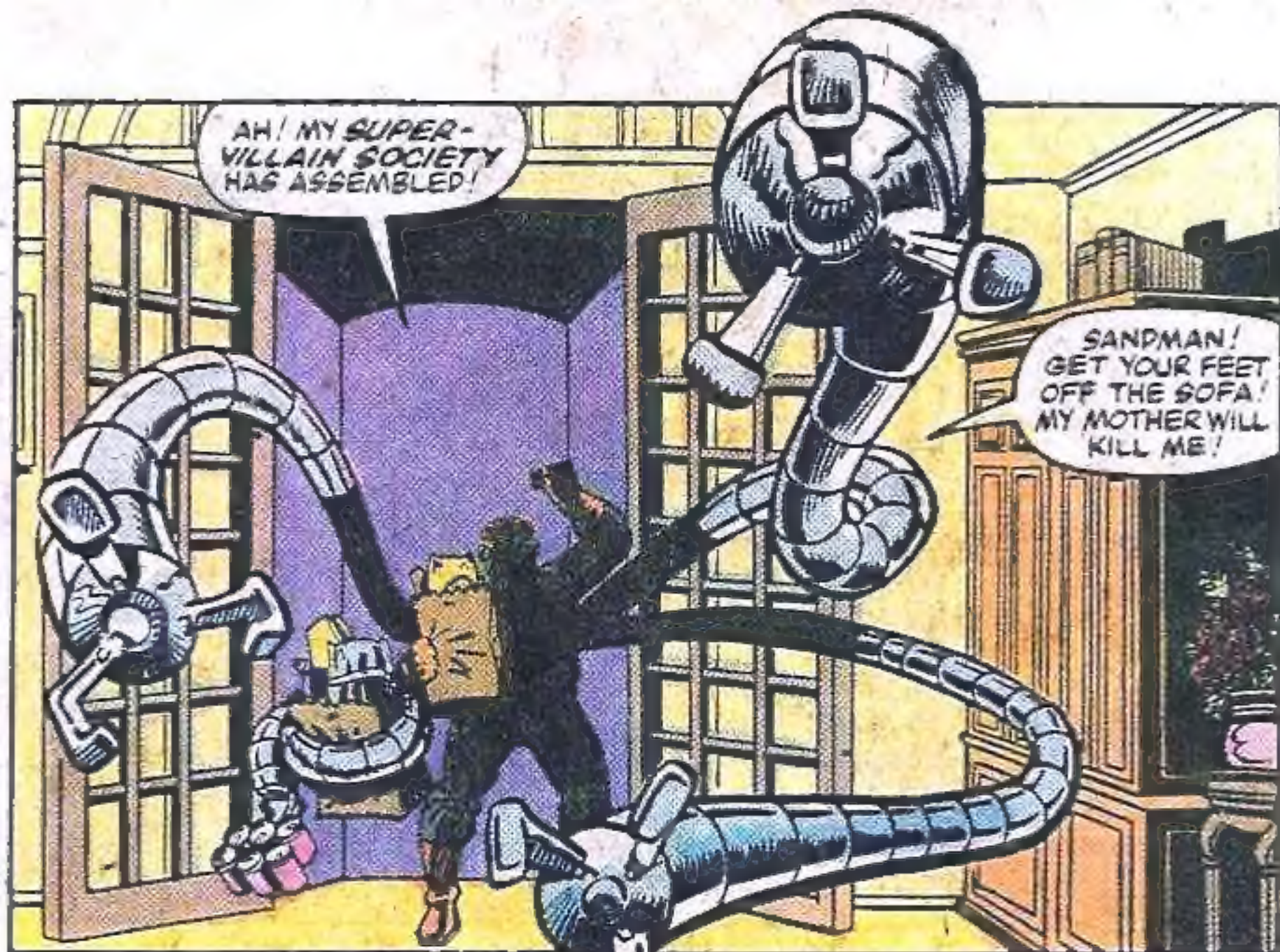
I'VE GOT
BETTER THINGS
TO DO THAN
SPEND THE NIGHT
WAITING FOR
THAT LITTLE
PUDGEBALL!

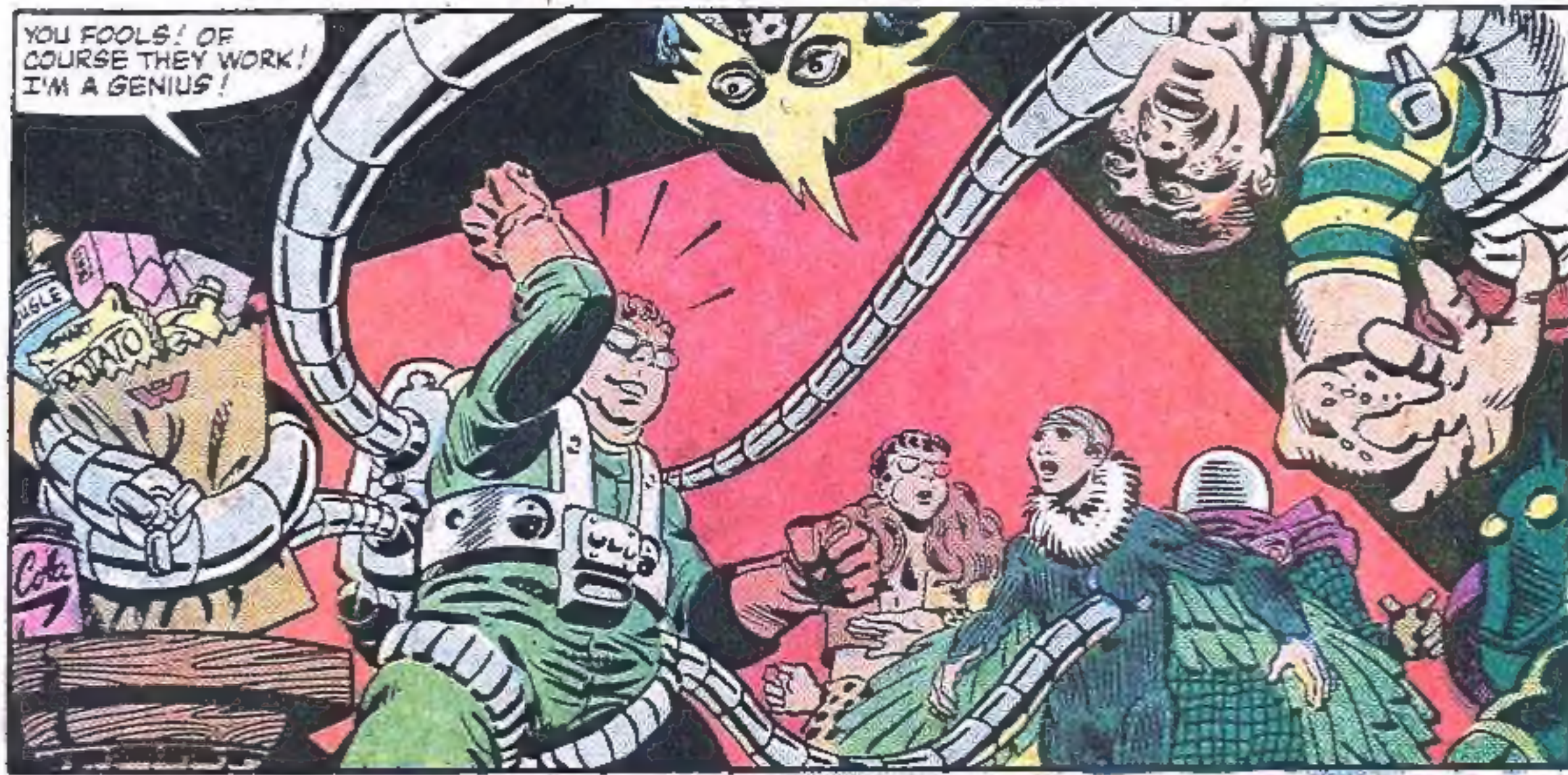


I TOLTA FROM THE START THIS
WHOLE IDEA OF A FAN CLUB
DEDICATED TO *SUPER-*
VILLAINS WAS SCREWY!

THAT'S
'CAUSE WE
NEVER HAD THE
KIND OF DOUGH
OLLIE'S
PARENTS
HAVE!

THEY'RE
LOADED--AND
THEY LET HIM
SPEND AS
MUCH AS HE
WANTS!





YOU FOOLS! OF COURSE THEY WORK! I'M A GENIUS!



DON'T I ALWAYS GET STRAIGHT A'S IN SCIENCE?!

SO YOUR ARMS WORK! SO WHAT? YOU'RE STILL A CREEP!

JANE LANG SAYS SHE DIGGS ME IN MY SPIDER-MAN COSTUME, ANYWAY!



I DON'T CARE WHAT JANE LANG THINKS!



I INVITED YOU HERE-- FURNISHED YOU WITH COSTUMES--FOR A PURPOSE. TONIGHT, MY IDOL ESCAPED FROM PRISON!

I WANT TO CELEBRATE!



OLLIE, SPIDER-MAN BEATS DOC OCK EVERY TIME THEY MEET--AND HE ALWAYS WILL!

YOU'RE SICK TO ADMIRE A CRUMB-BUM LIKE THAT!

AN' BEING SICK IS WHY YOU AIN'T GOT ANY FRIENDS!



BRAD ROSSI, YOU MAY INSULT ME--
--BUT YOU MAY NOT INSULT DOCTOR OCTOPUS!



GET OUT! ALL OF YOU! THE PARTY'S OVER!
GET OUT!
GOODBYE, CHUBBY-- AN' GOOD RIDDANCE!



FOOLS! YOU'LL BE SORRY YOU REJECTED ME!



BUT I DON'T NEED YOU! YOU'RE ALL IRRELEVANT!

I DON'T NEED ANYONE AT ALL!



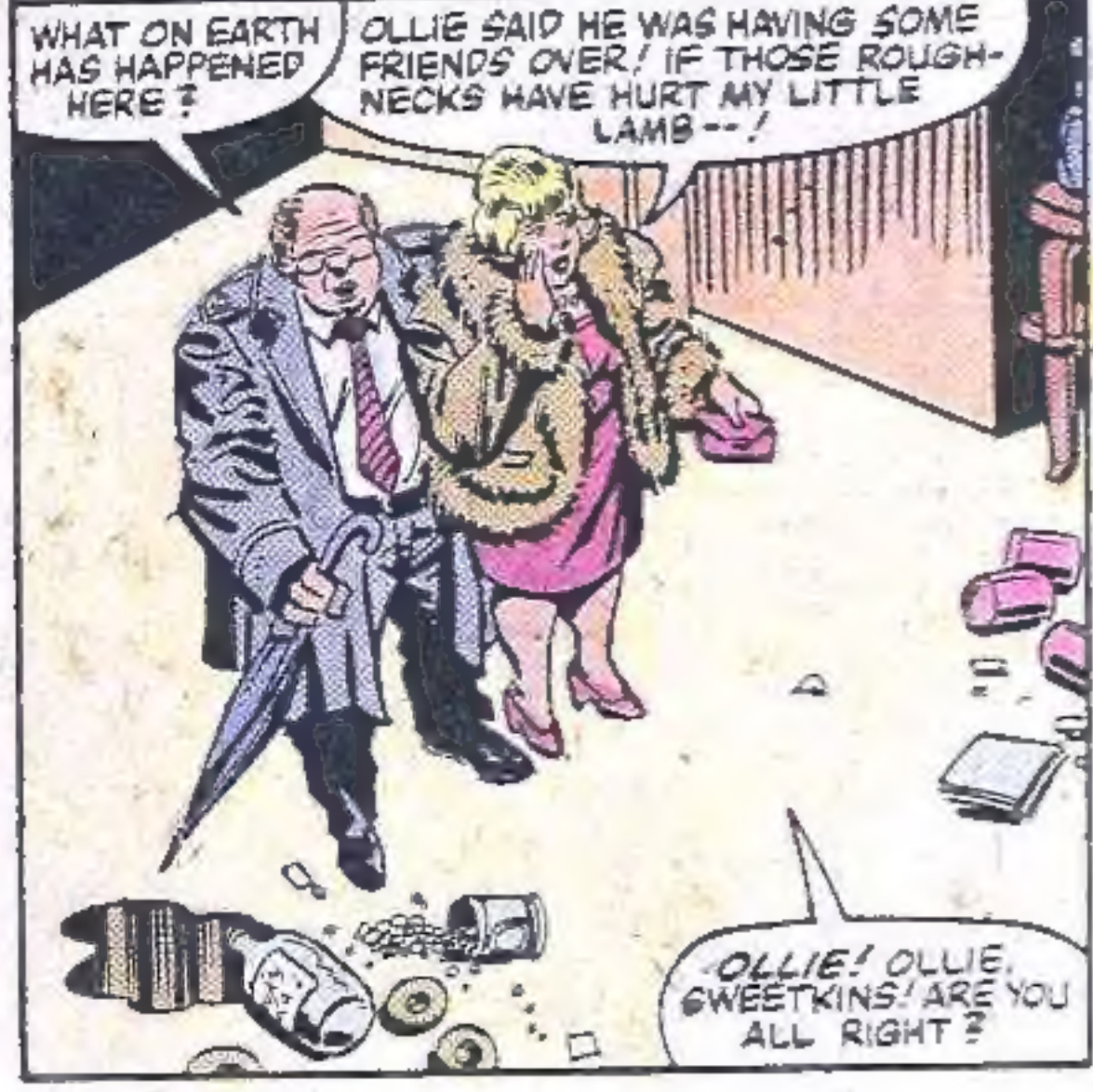
SOB!



WOW! OLLIE'S REALLY FLIPPED OUT! HE TRASHED THE PLACE! SHOULD WE CALL THE COPS?

NAH! LET HIS PARENTS FIND THIS MESS WHEN THEY COME HOME! THEY'LL WALLOP HIM!

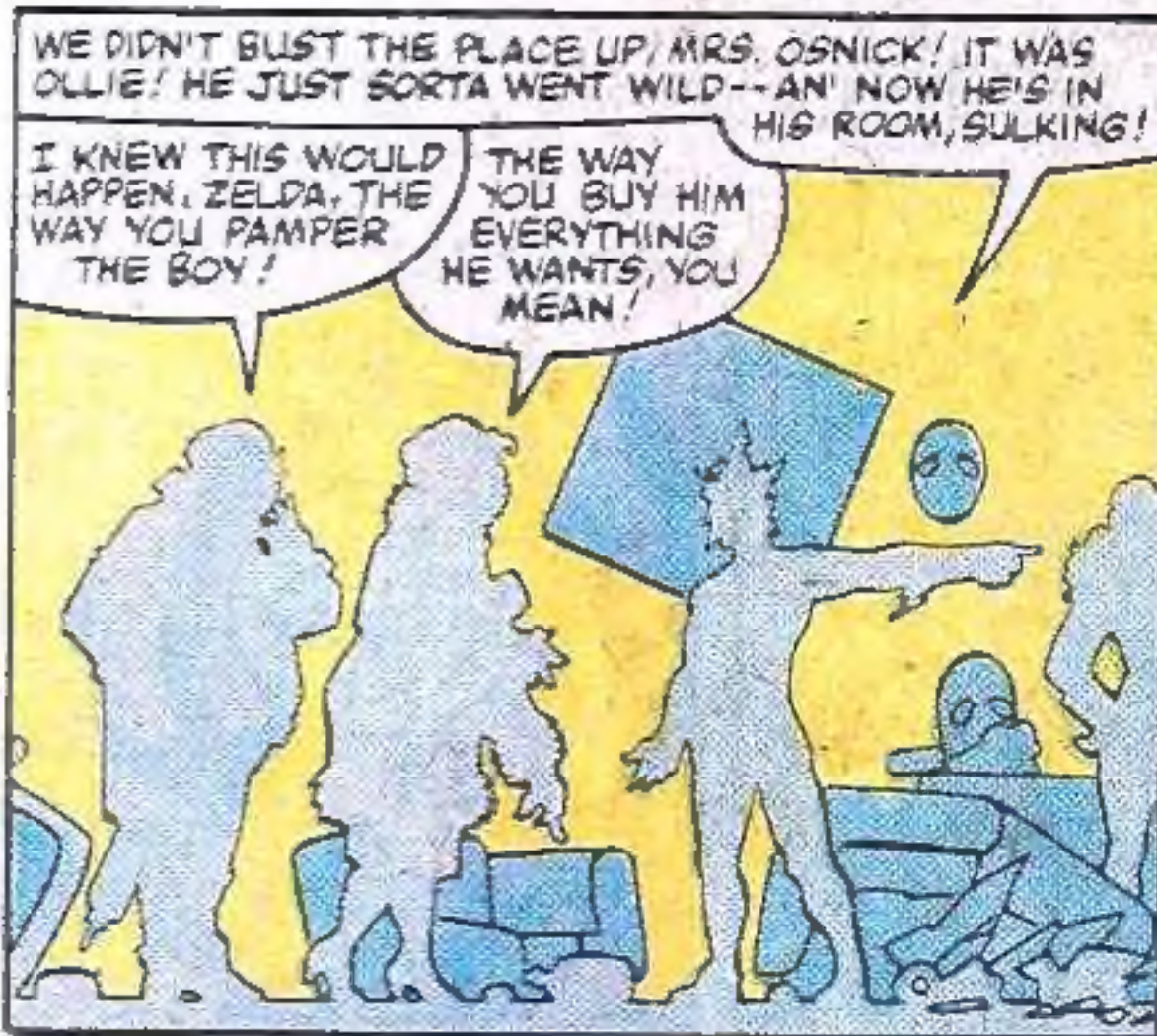
GOOD HEAVENS!



WHAT ON EARTH HAS HAPPENED HERE?

OLLIE SAID HE WAS HAVING SOME FRIENDS OVER! IF THOSE ROUGH-NECKS HAVE HURT MY LITTLE LAMB--!

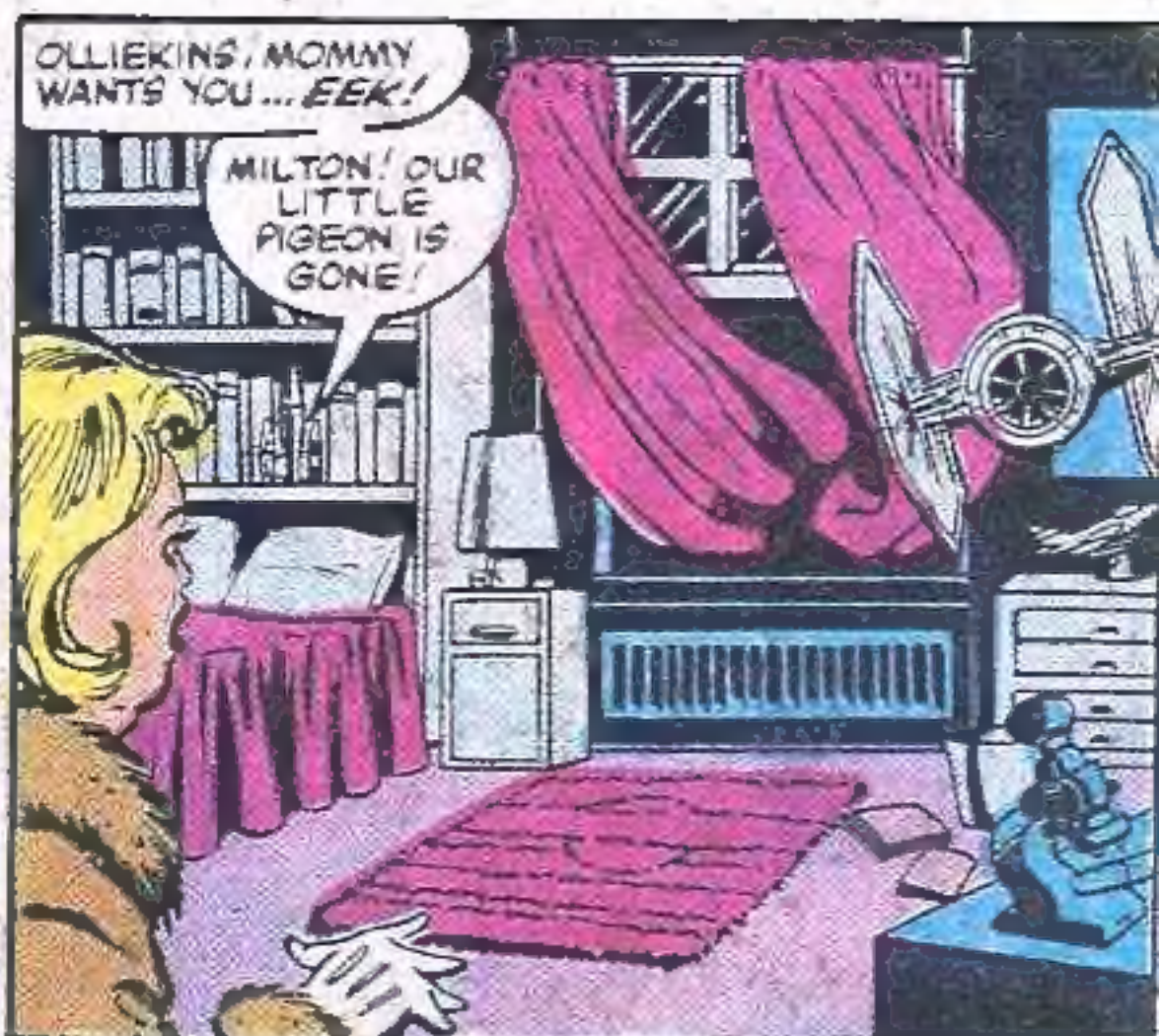
OLLIE! OLLIE, SWEETKINS! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?



WE DIDN'T BUST THE PLACE UP, MRS. OSNICK! IT WAS OLLIE! HE JUST SORTA WENT WILD--AN' NOW HE'S IN HIS ROOM, SULKING!

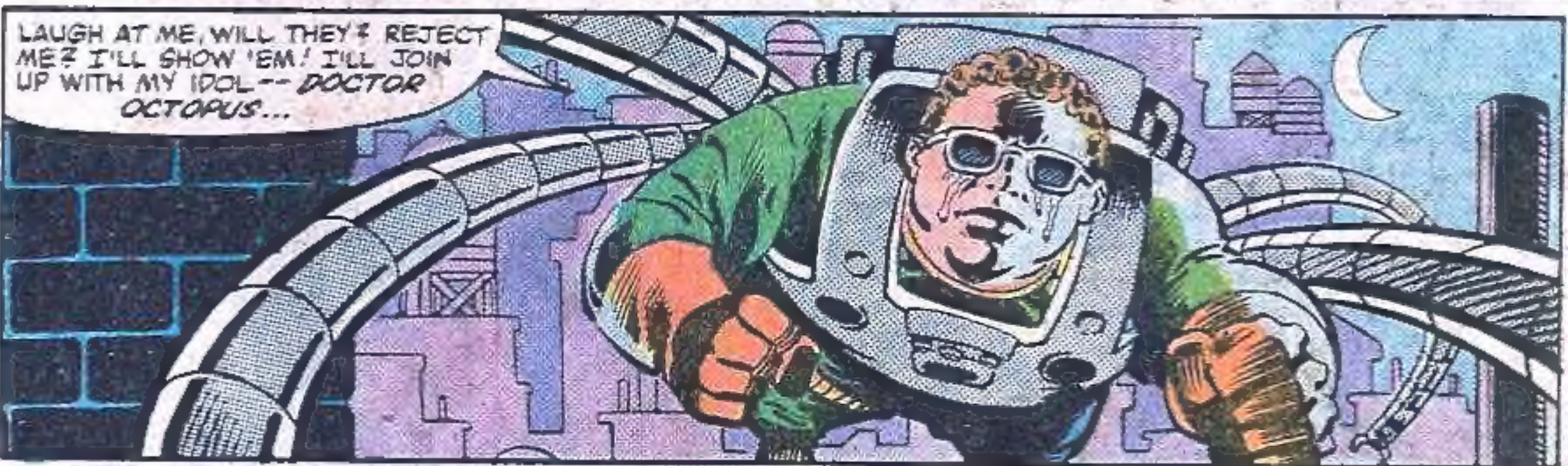
I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN, ZELDA, THE WAY YOU PAMPER THE BOY!

THE WAY YOU BUY HIM EVERYTHING HE WANTS, YOU MEAN!



OLLIEKINS, MOMMY WANTS YOU...EEK!

MILTON! OUR LITTLE PIGEON IS GONE!



LAUGH AT ME, WILL THEY? REJECT ME? I'LL SHOW 'EM! I'LL JOIN UP WITH MY IDOL-- DOCTOR OCTOPUS...



...AND TOGETHER WE'LL SHOW 'EM ALL!



YES! WHAT'S THAT? A RUNAWAY?

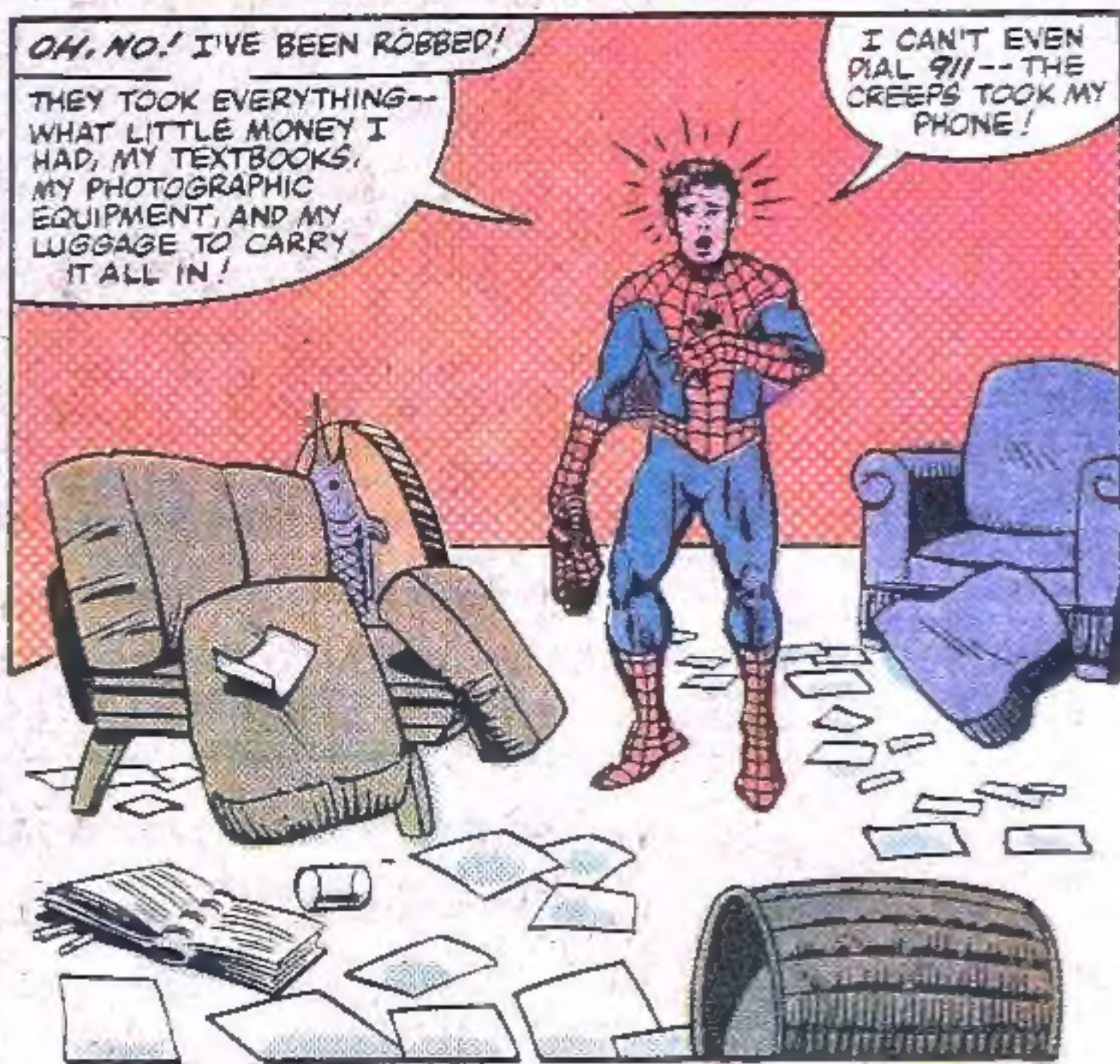
HE WENT OUT THE WINDOW WEARING WHAT??!

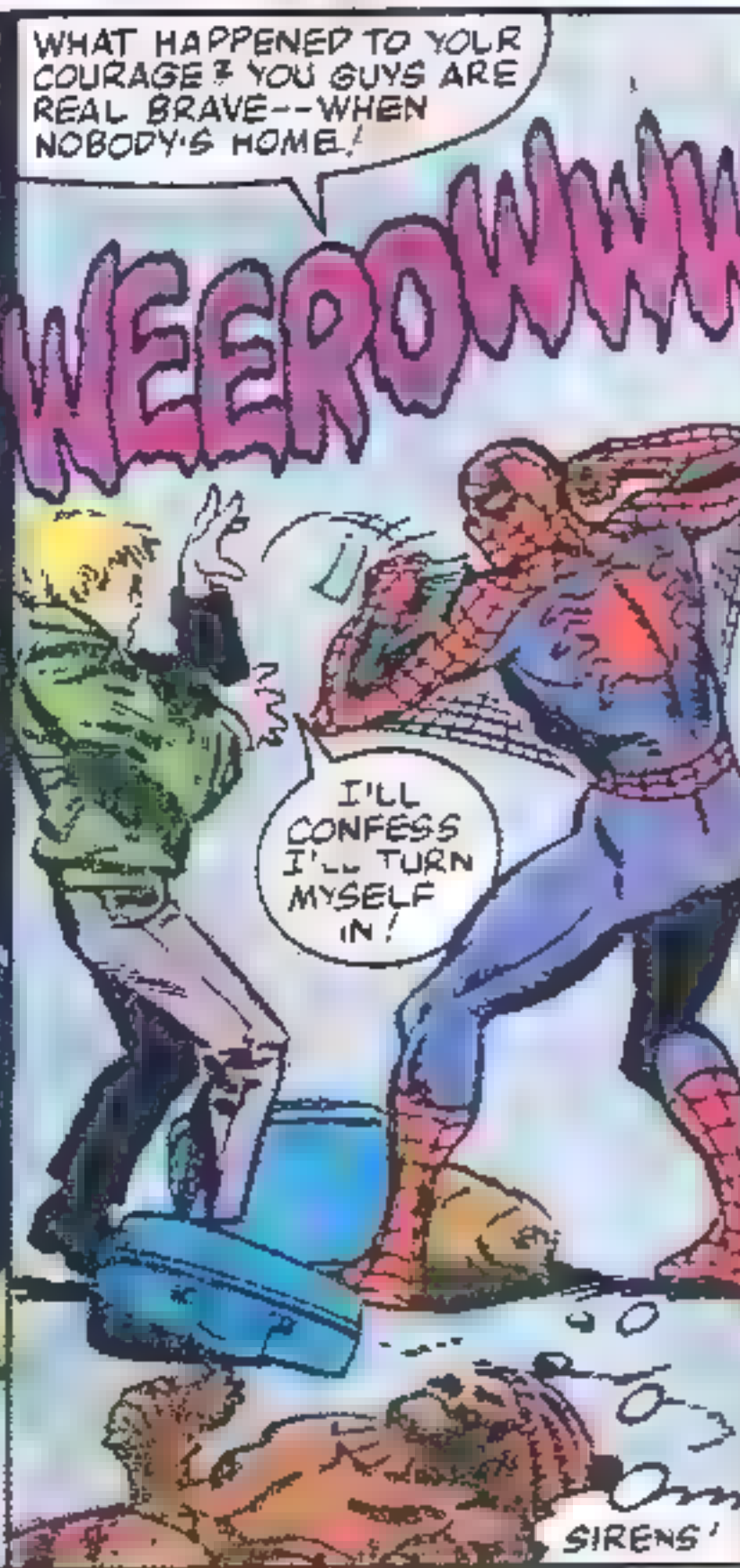
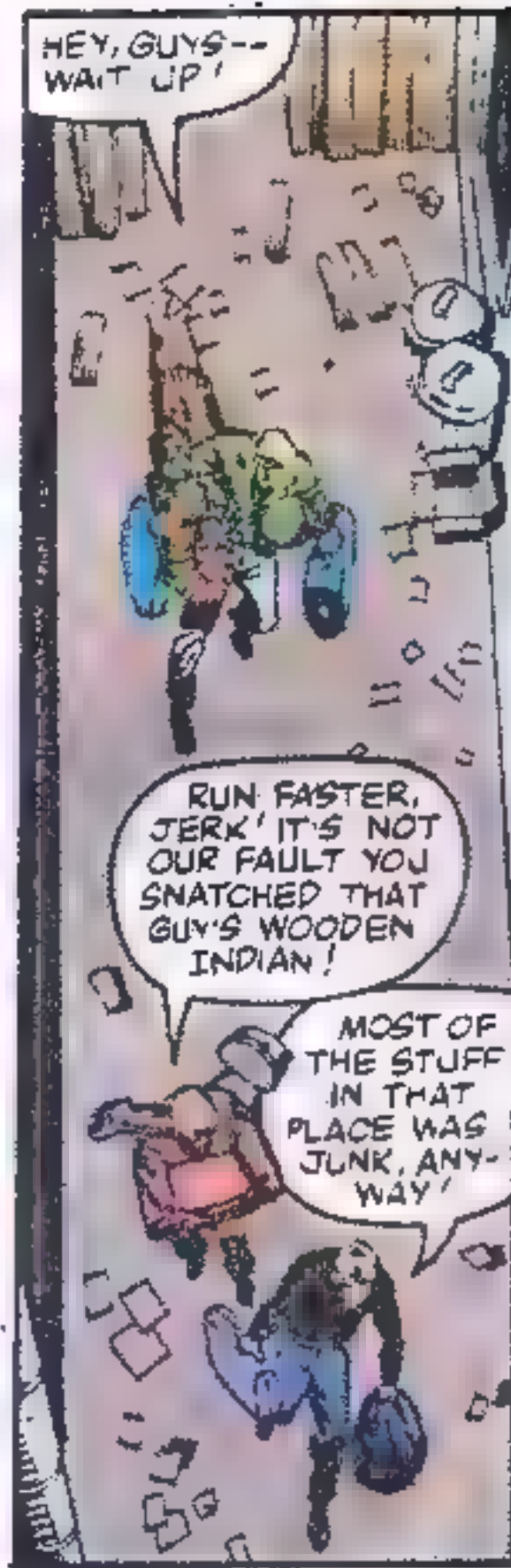
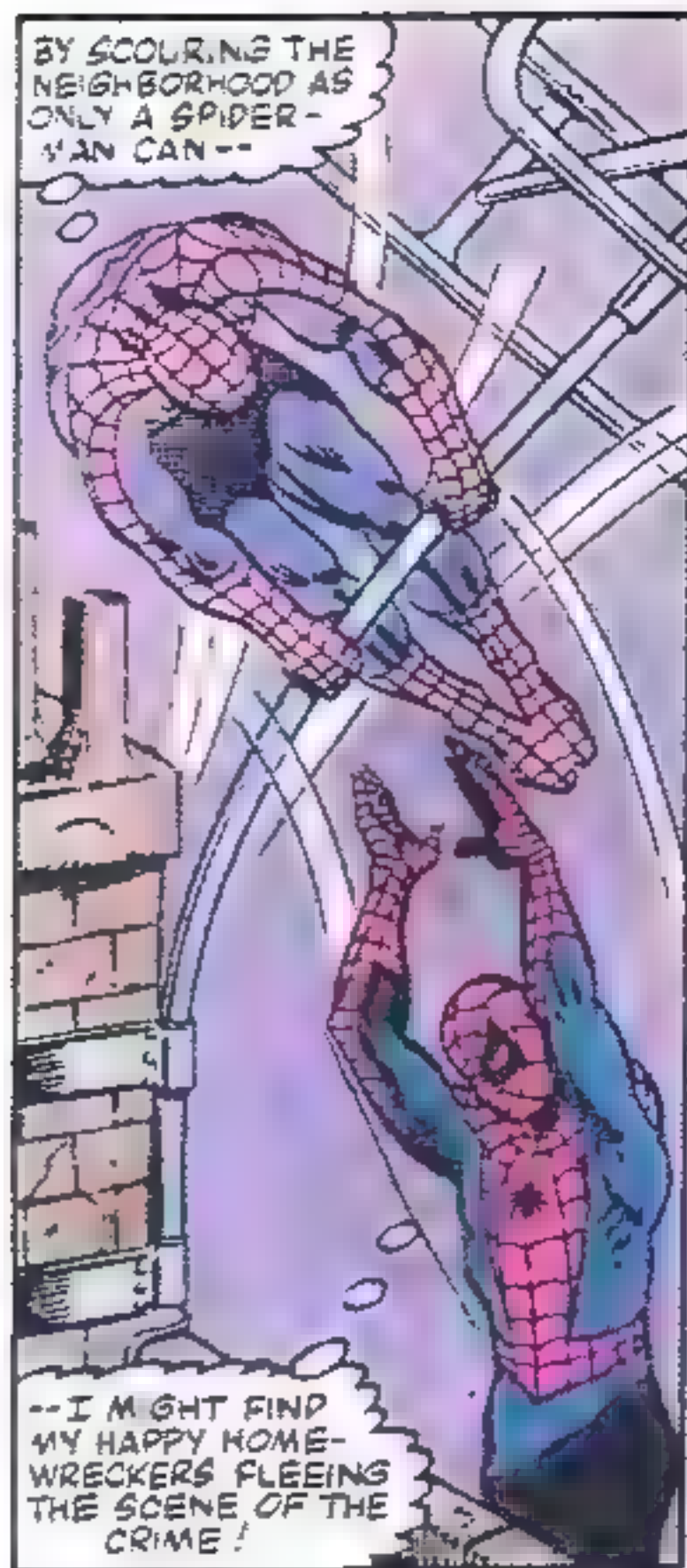


THIS IS A GOOD ONE, GUYS! SOME KID STOLE SOME SCIENTIFIC GIZMOS FROM HIS DAD, AND TOOK OFF WEARING A DOCTOR OCTOPUS COSTUME!

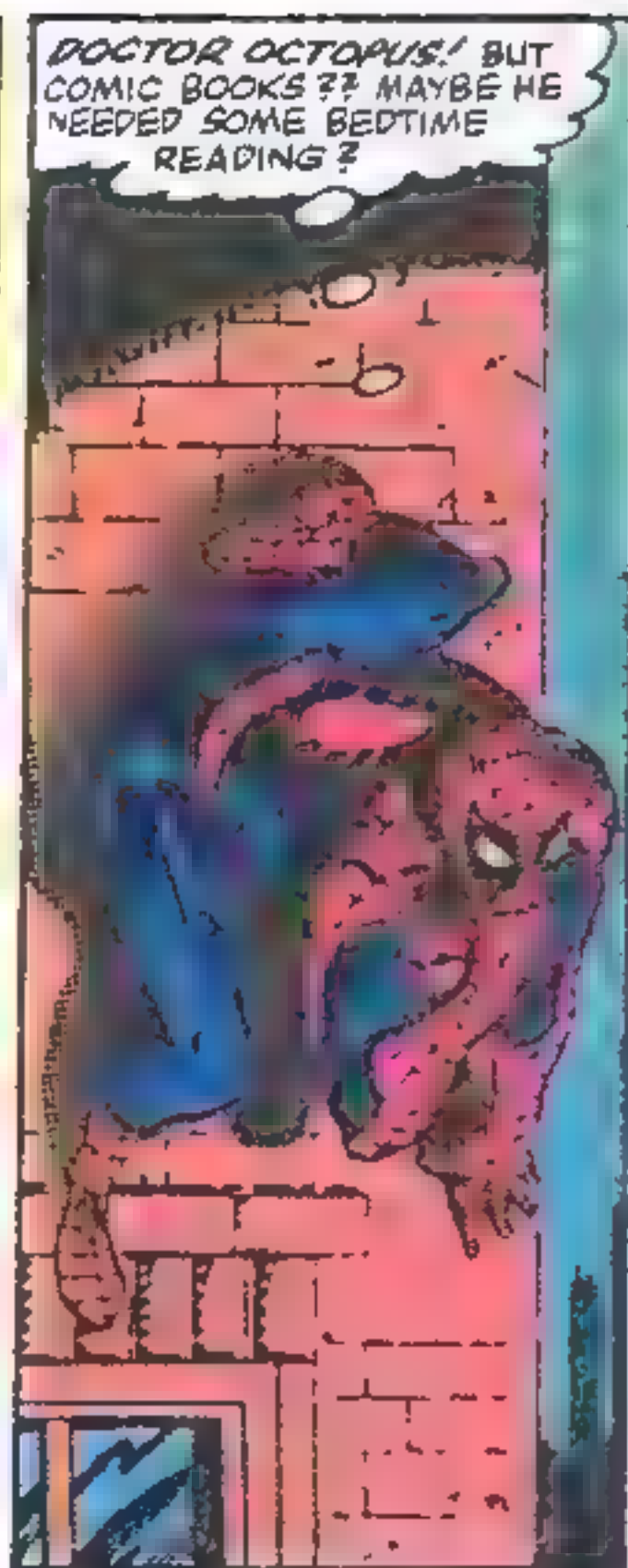
SO?

SO WE GOT A LOT OF NERVOUS COPS OUT THERE ON ALERT FOR THE REAL DOC OCK. WE GOTTA FIND THIS KID BEFORE HE GETS...









I ONCE ASSEMBLED AN ELABORATE BURGLAR-ALARM SYSTEM FOR THE SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR.



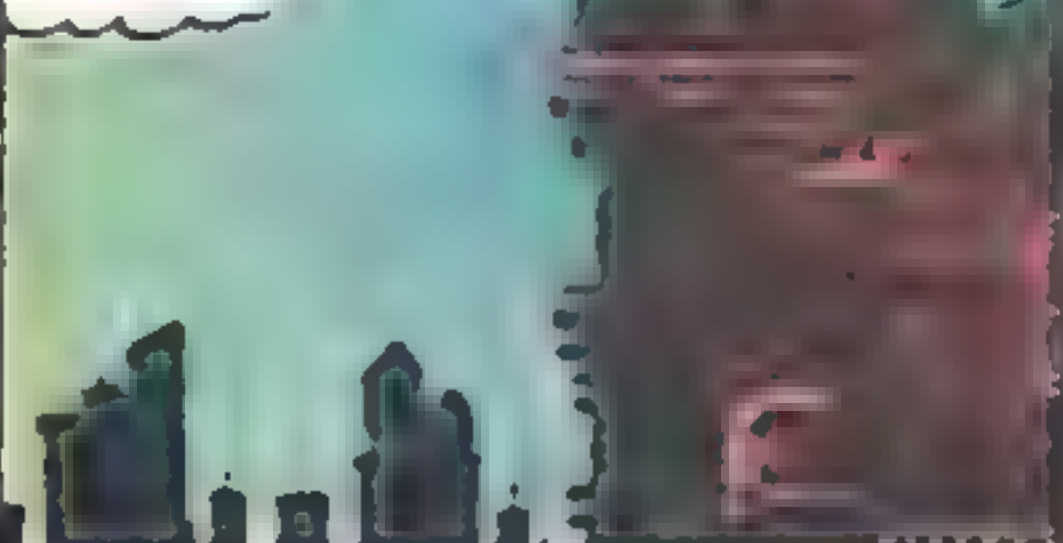
THEY'RE TRYING TO TAKE AHAH!



VOGLA!

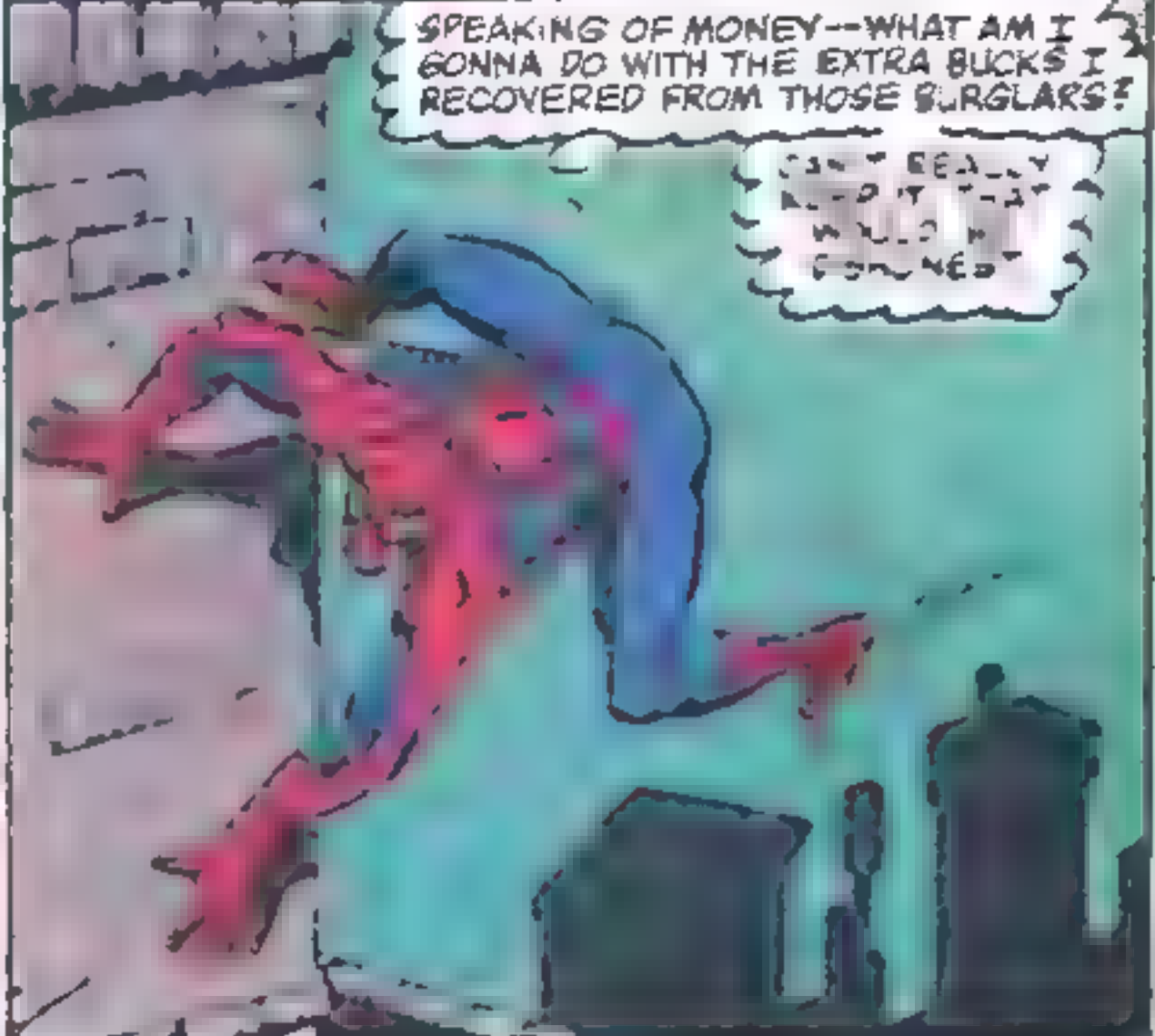


...CAN BE USED TO...
...ALWAYS NEEDS COLD CASH TO FINANCE HIS B ZARRE SCHEMES!



SPEAKING OF MONEY--WHAT AM I GONNA DO WITH THE EXTRA BUCKS I RECOVERED FROM THOSE BURGLARS?

CAN'T REALLY AFFORD IT--THAT WOULD BE CONNED



GUACHAPO!

I'M IN!

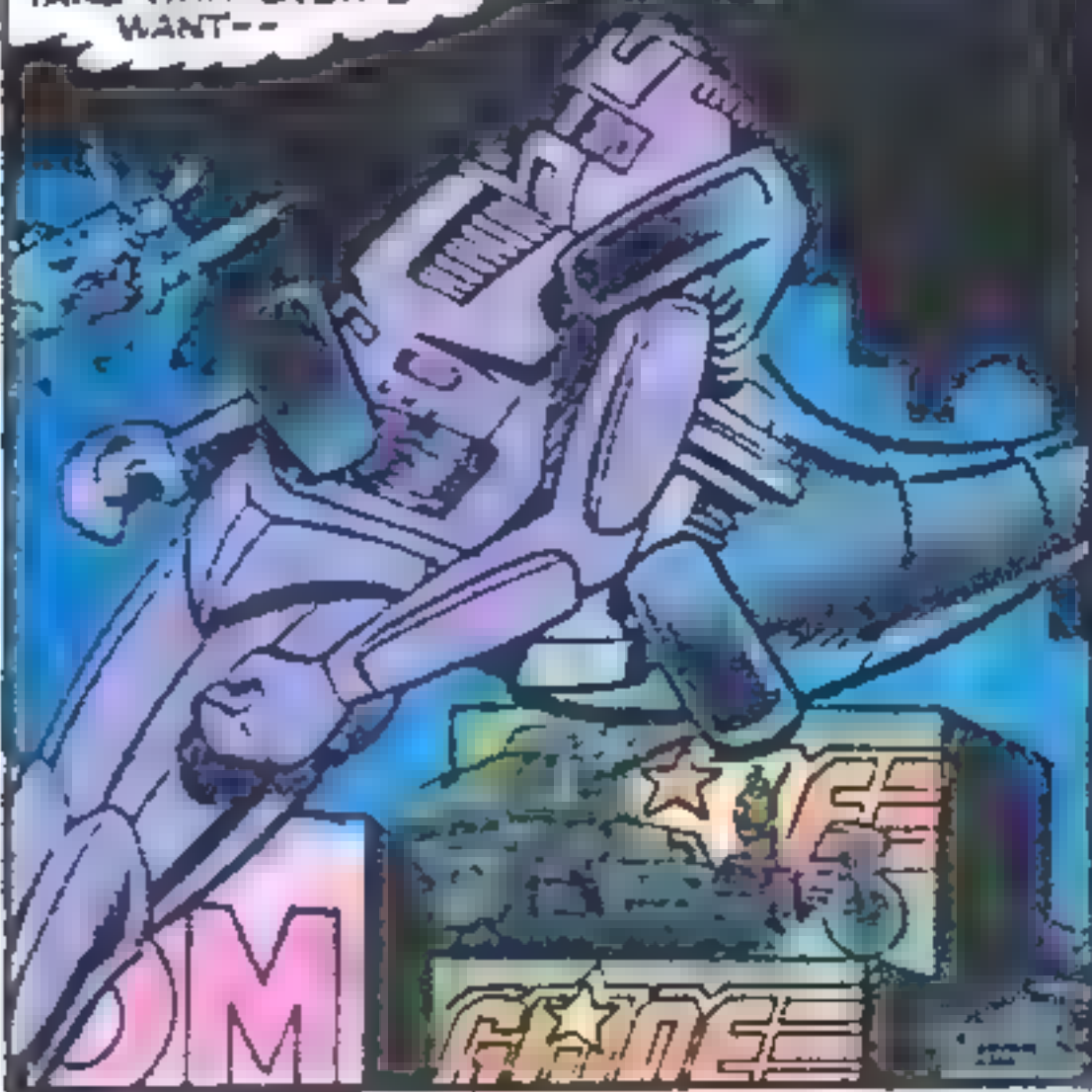
AT LAST! I AM ABOUT TO FEAST UPON THE FRUITS OF CRIME





AN' WHAT
A FEAST IT'S
GONNA BE!!!

THIS IS GREAT! I CAN
TAKE WHATEVER I
WANT--



--AND THERE'S
NO ONE AROUND
TO STOP ME!

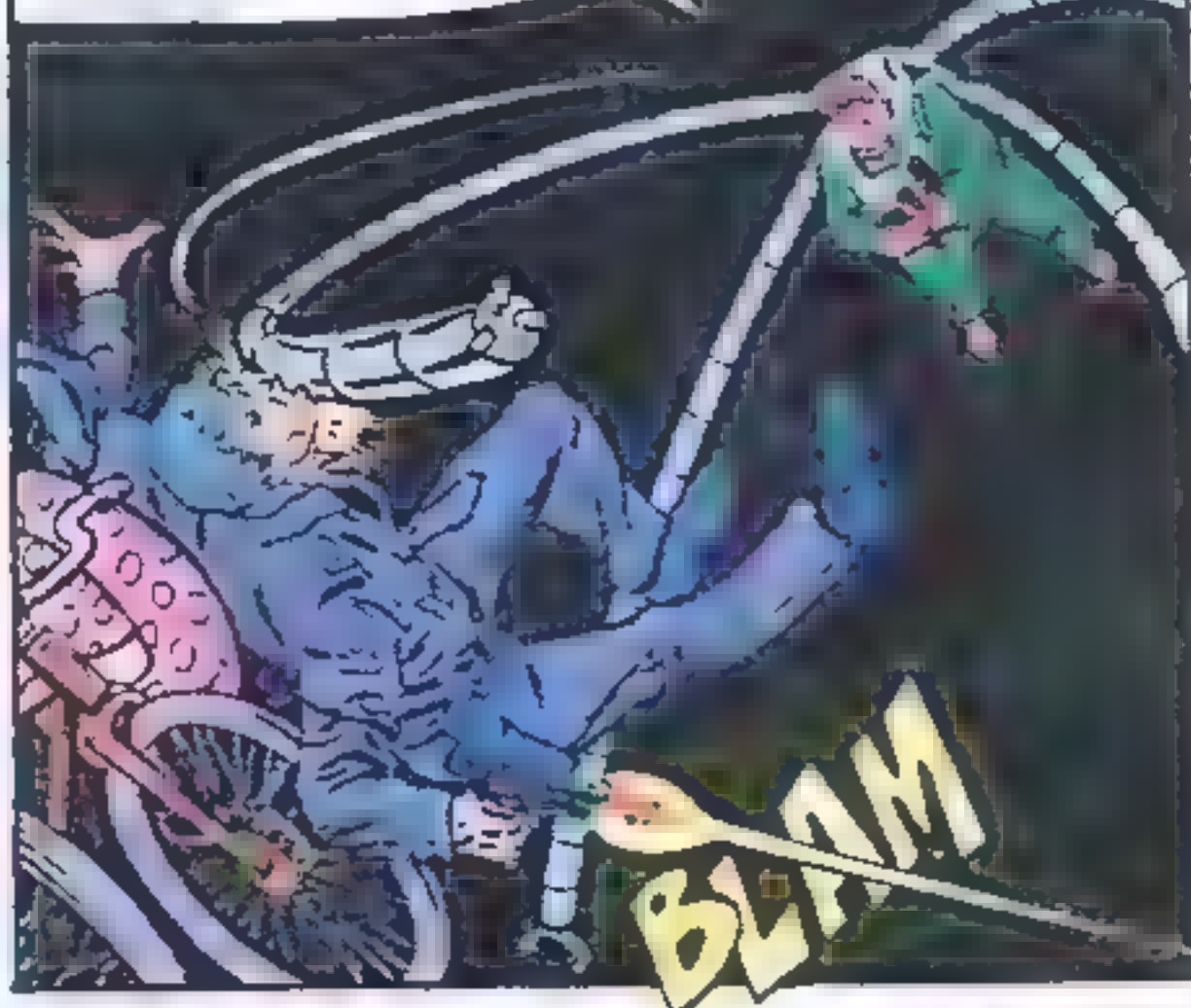


FREEZE!

HUH?
WHERE'D
HE GO?!

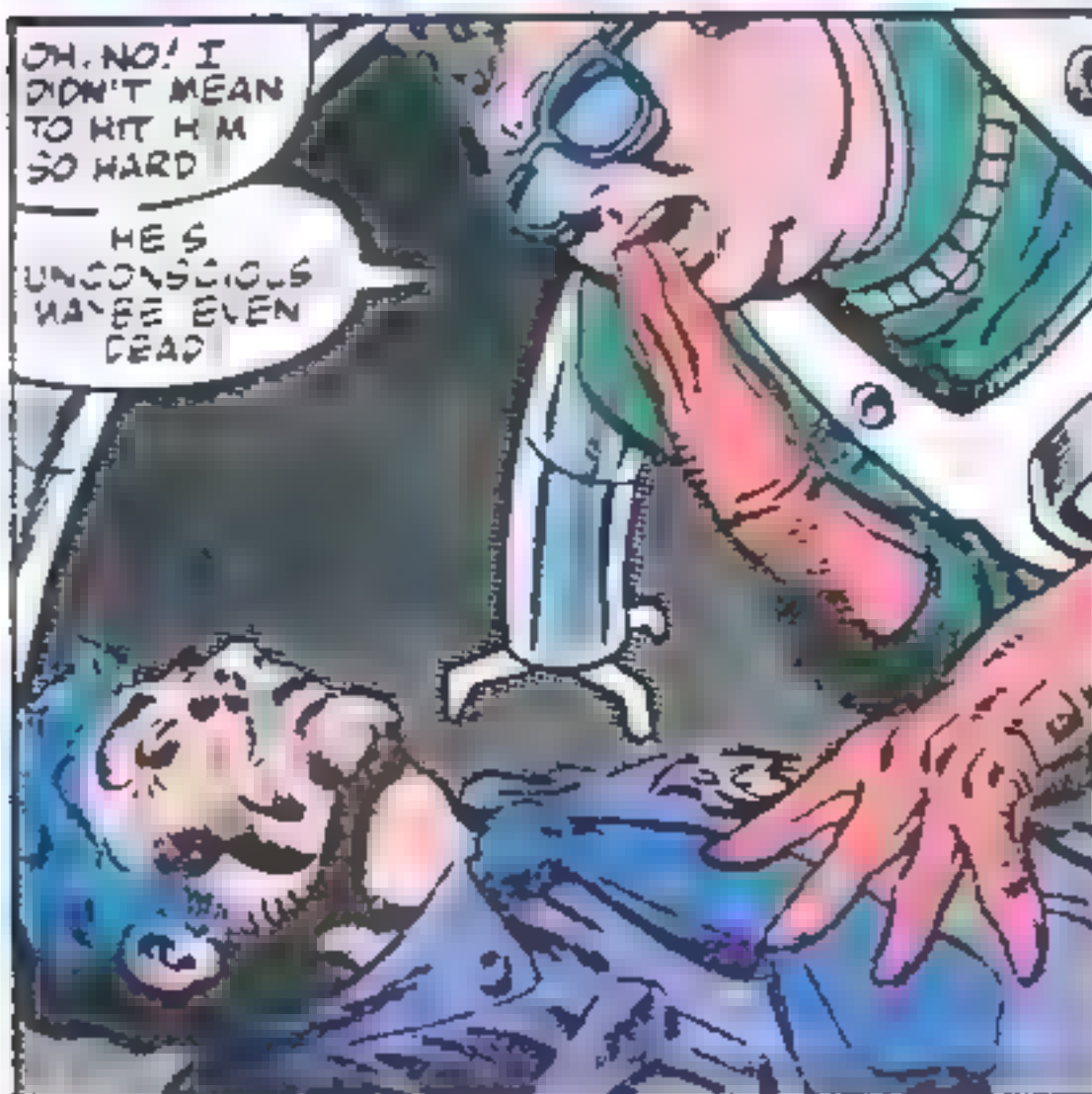


UP HERE, OLD MAN! MY OCTOPL'S
ARMS ELEVATED ME ABOVE
YOUR LINE OF FIRE



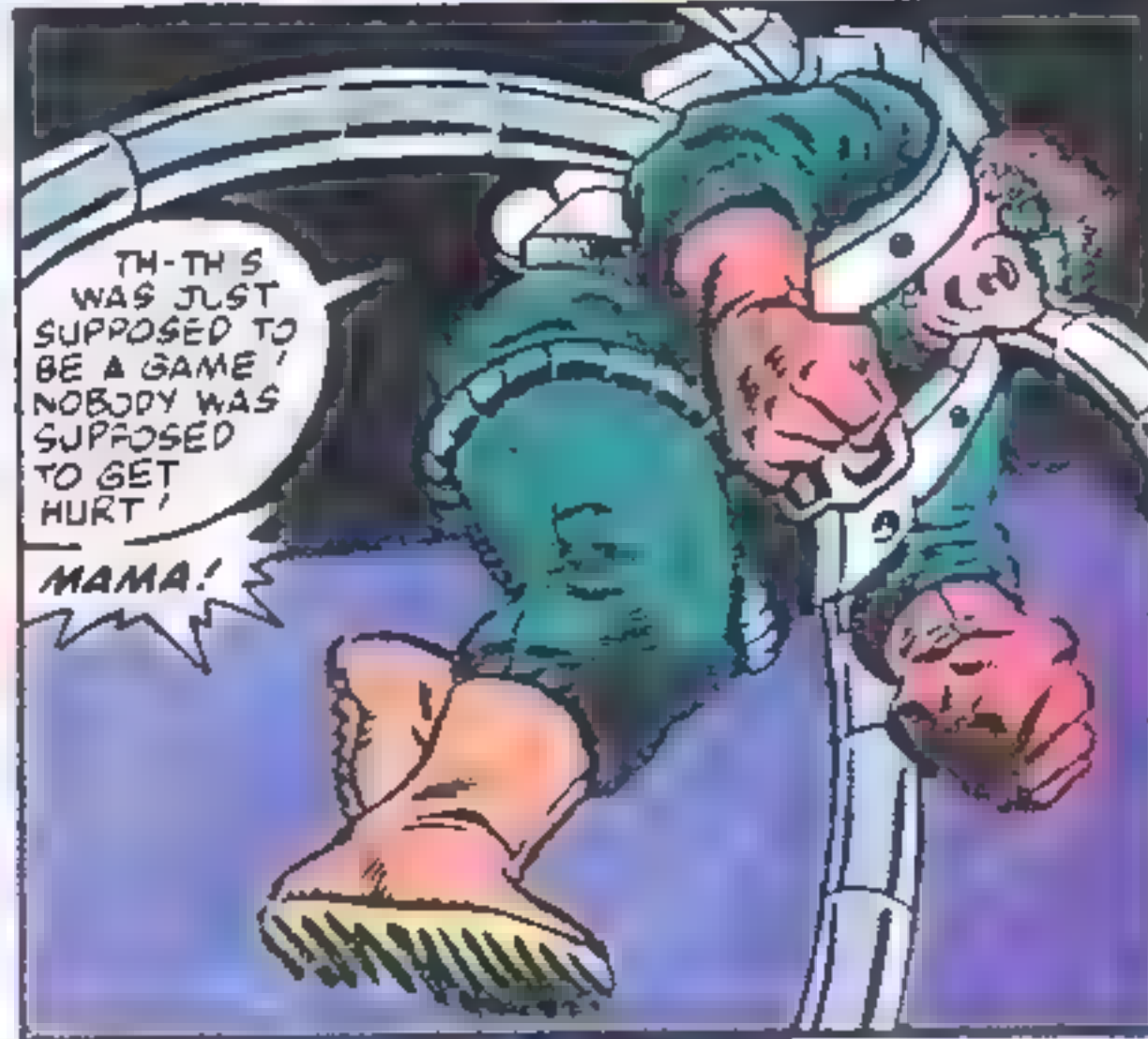
OH, NO! I
DIDN'T MEAN
TO HIT HIM
SO HARD

HE'S
UNCONSCIOUS
MAYBE EVEN
DEAD



TH-TH'S
WAS JUST
SUPPOSED TO
BE A GAME!
NOBODY WAS
SUPPOSED
TO GET
HURT!

MAMA!





NO DOUBT ABOUT IT-- THAT
GUNSHOT I HEARD CAME
FROM THAT TOY STORE

COULD IT BE DOC
OCK AGAIN? & MY
OLD ENEMY RELIVING
HIS SECOND
CHILDHOOD?



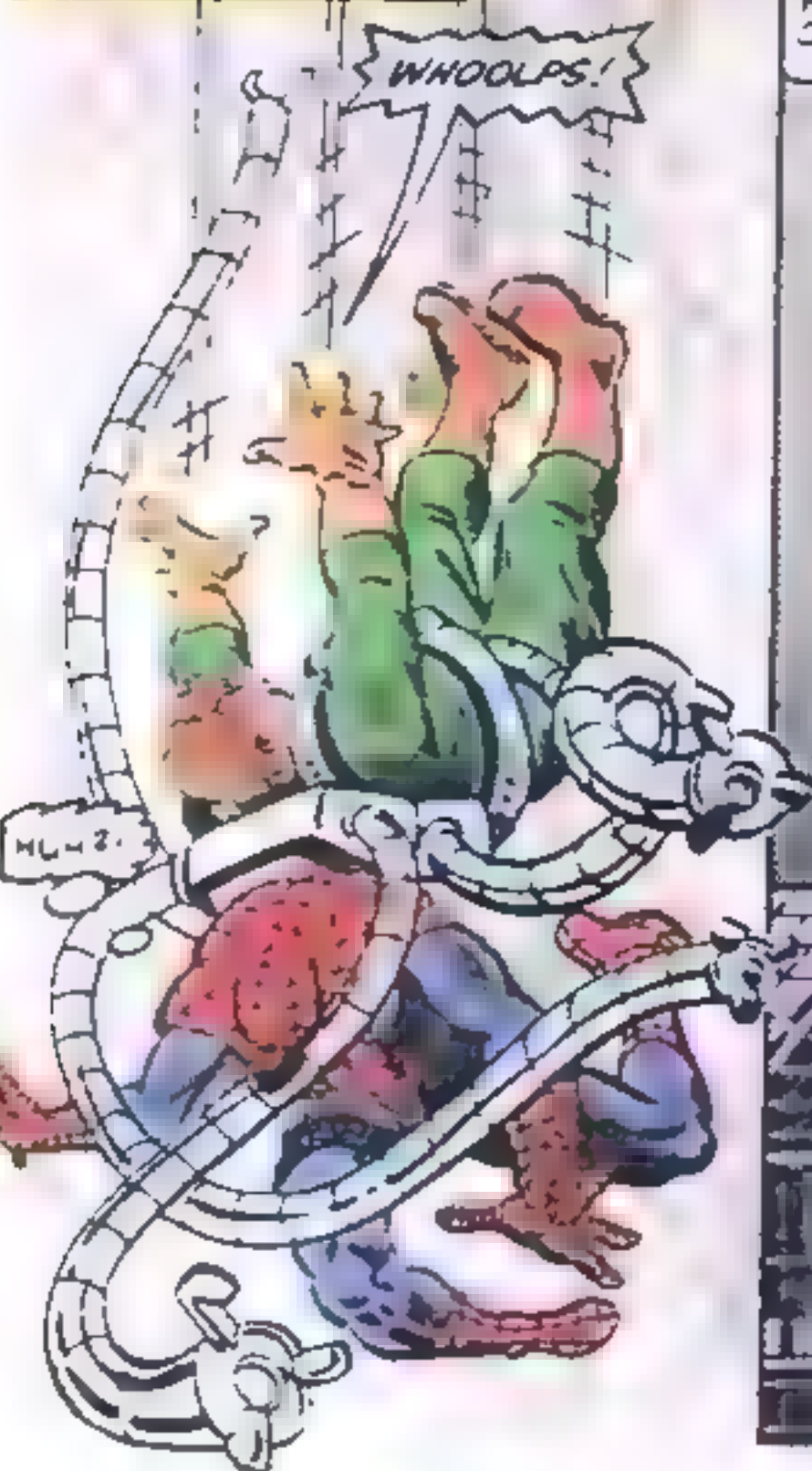
TOO DARK TO SEE IN HERE!
HAVE TO LET MY SPIDER-
SENSE GUIDE ME!



YOW! MY SPIDER-
SENSE WARNED ME
JUST IN TIME--
TO AVOID THESE
FLAILING
TENTACLES!

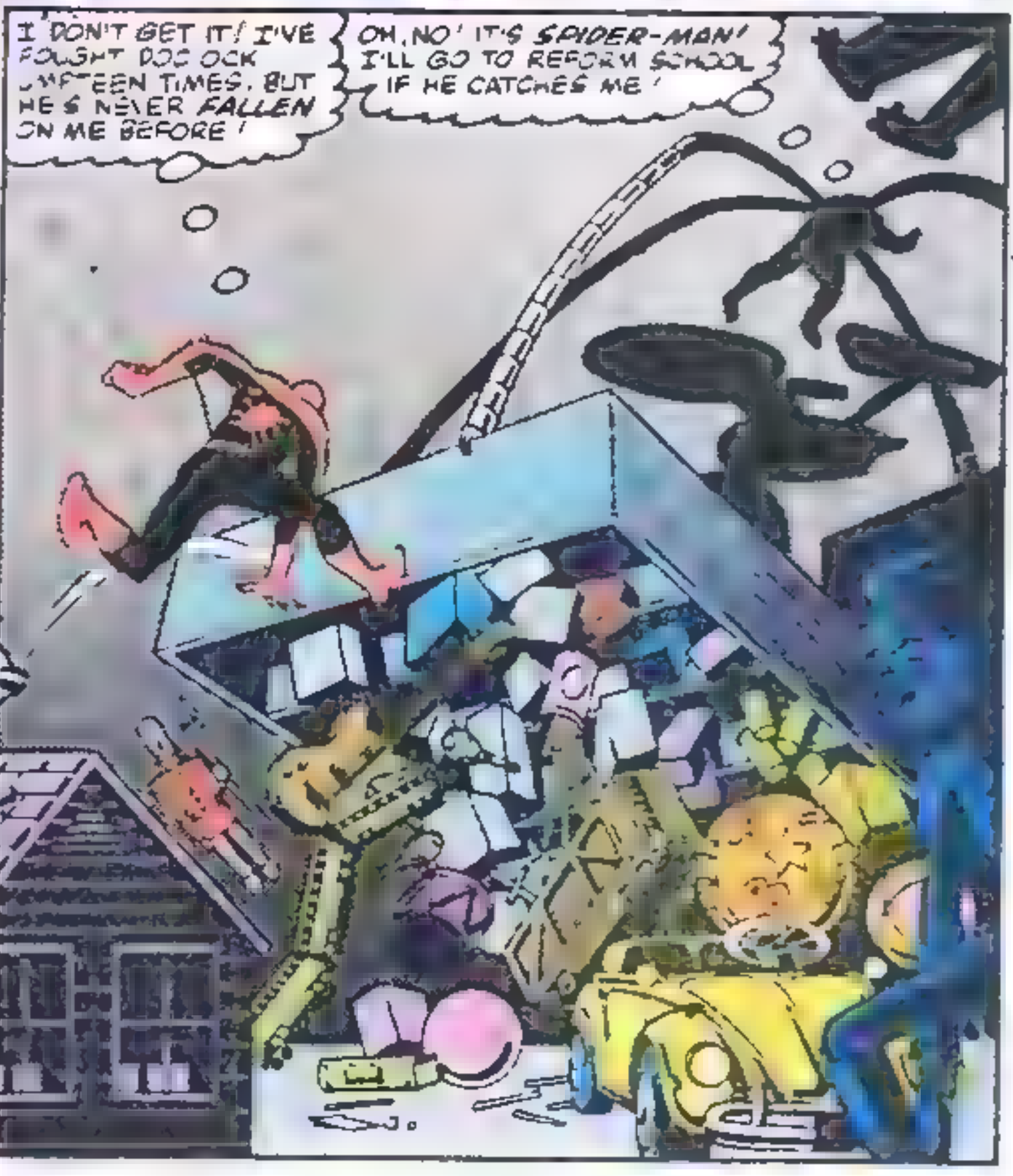
DOC OCK IS HERE!

EXPECTING A FOUR-ARMED ASSAULT,
SPIDER-MAN IS UNPREPARED FOR
WHAT HAPPENS NEXT!



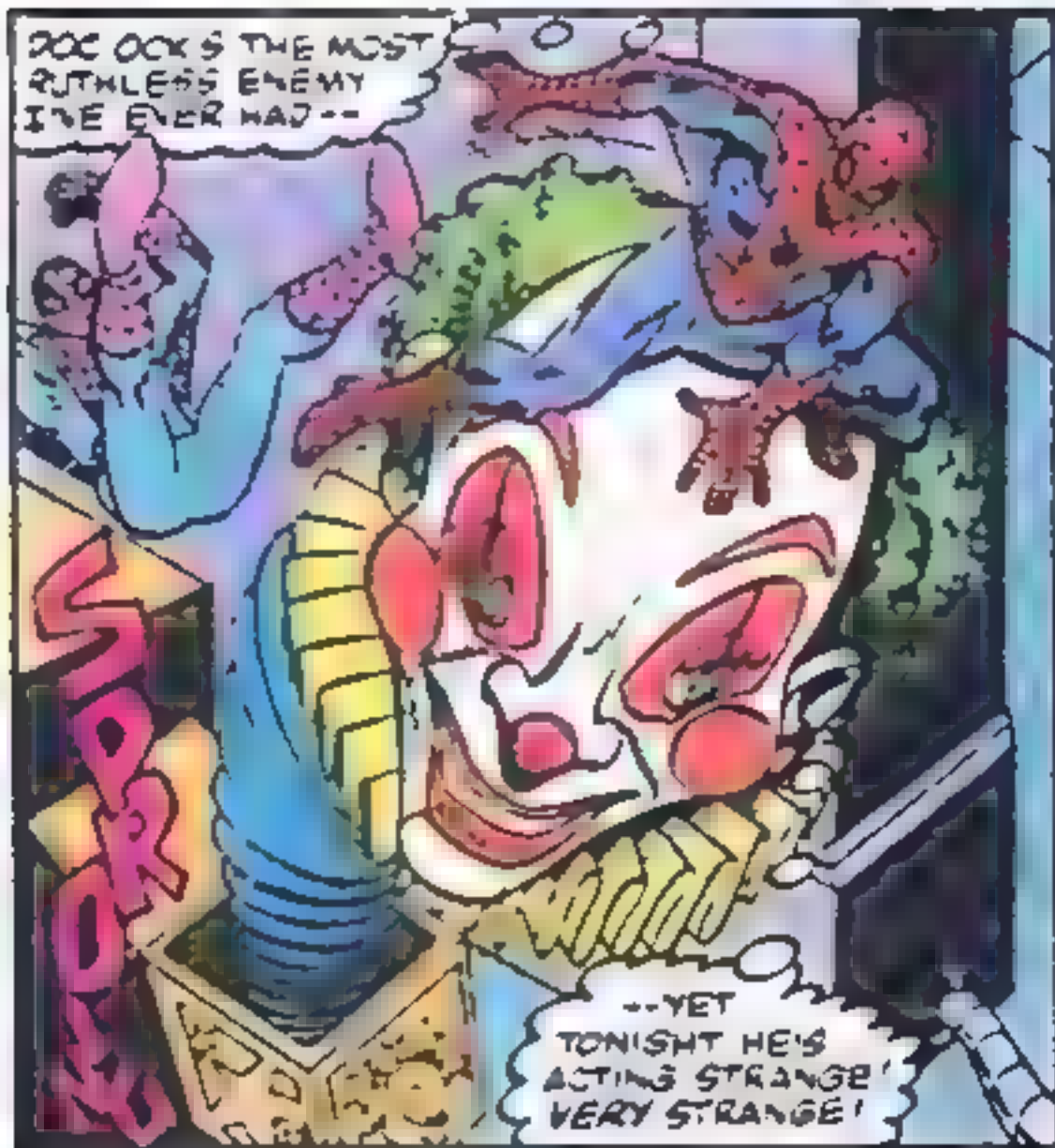
WHOOOPS!

HLW-2



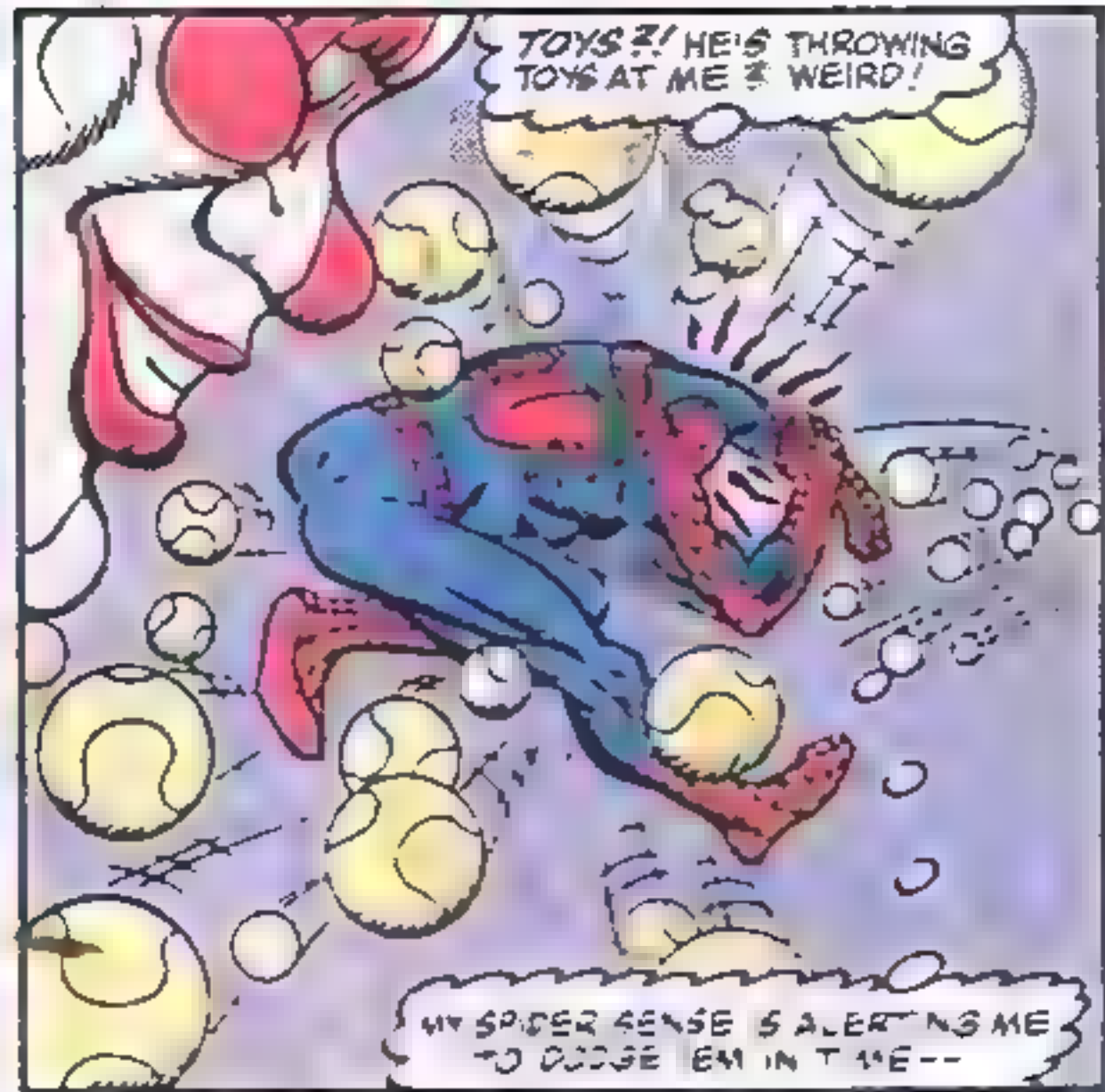
I DON'T GET IT! I'VE
FOUGHT DOC OCK
FIFTEEN TIMES, BUT
HE'S NEVER FALLEN
ON ME BEFORE!

OH, NO! IT'S SPIDER-MAN!
I'LL GO TO REFORM SCHOOL
IF HE CATCHES ME!



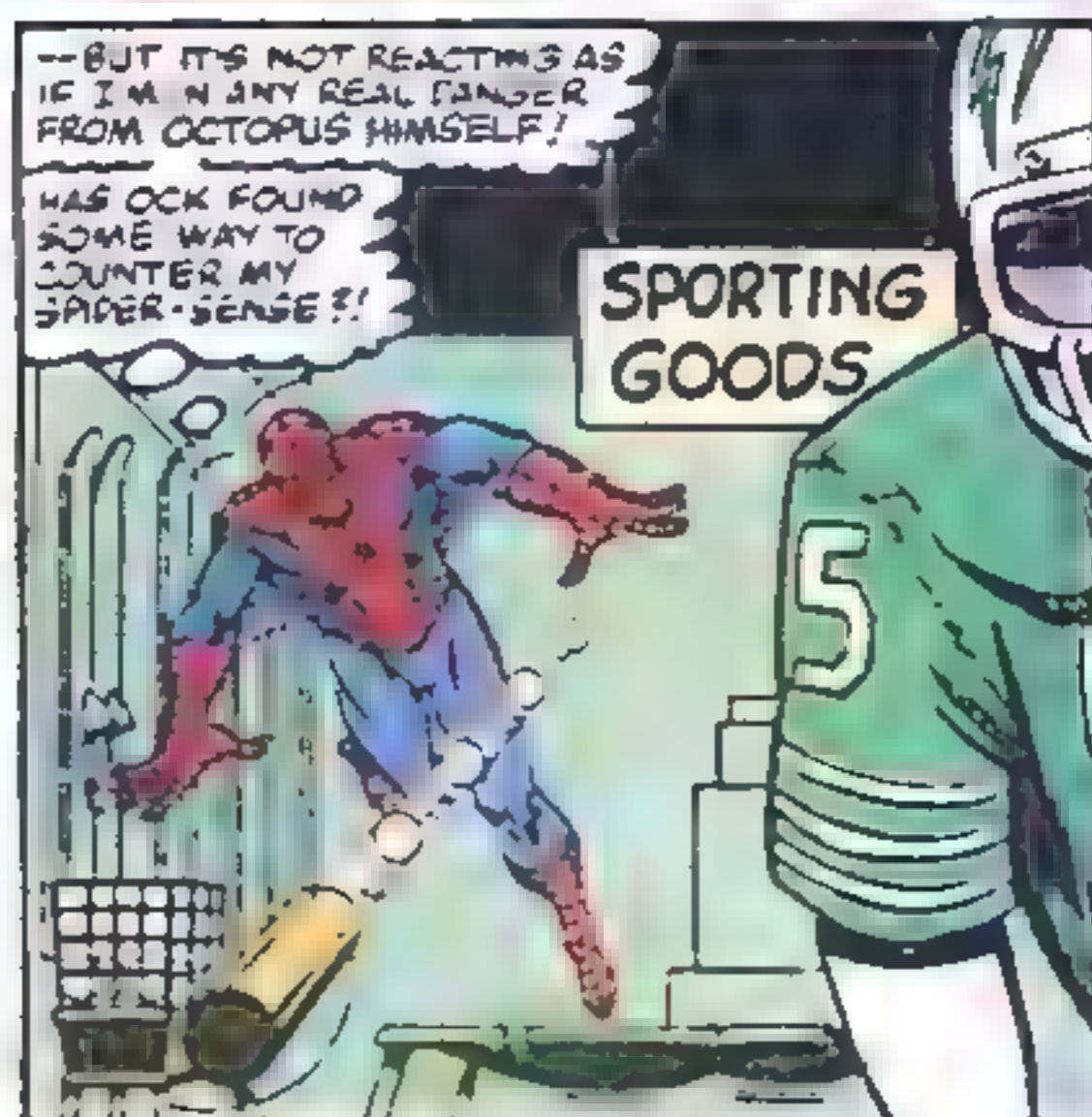
DOC OCK'S THE MOST RUTHLESS ENEMY I'VE EVER HAD--

--YET TONIGHT HE'S ACTING STRANGE! VERY STRANGE!



TOYS?! HE'S THROWING TOYS AT ME & WEIRD!

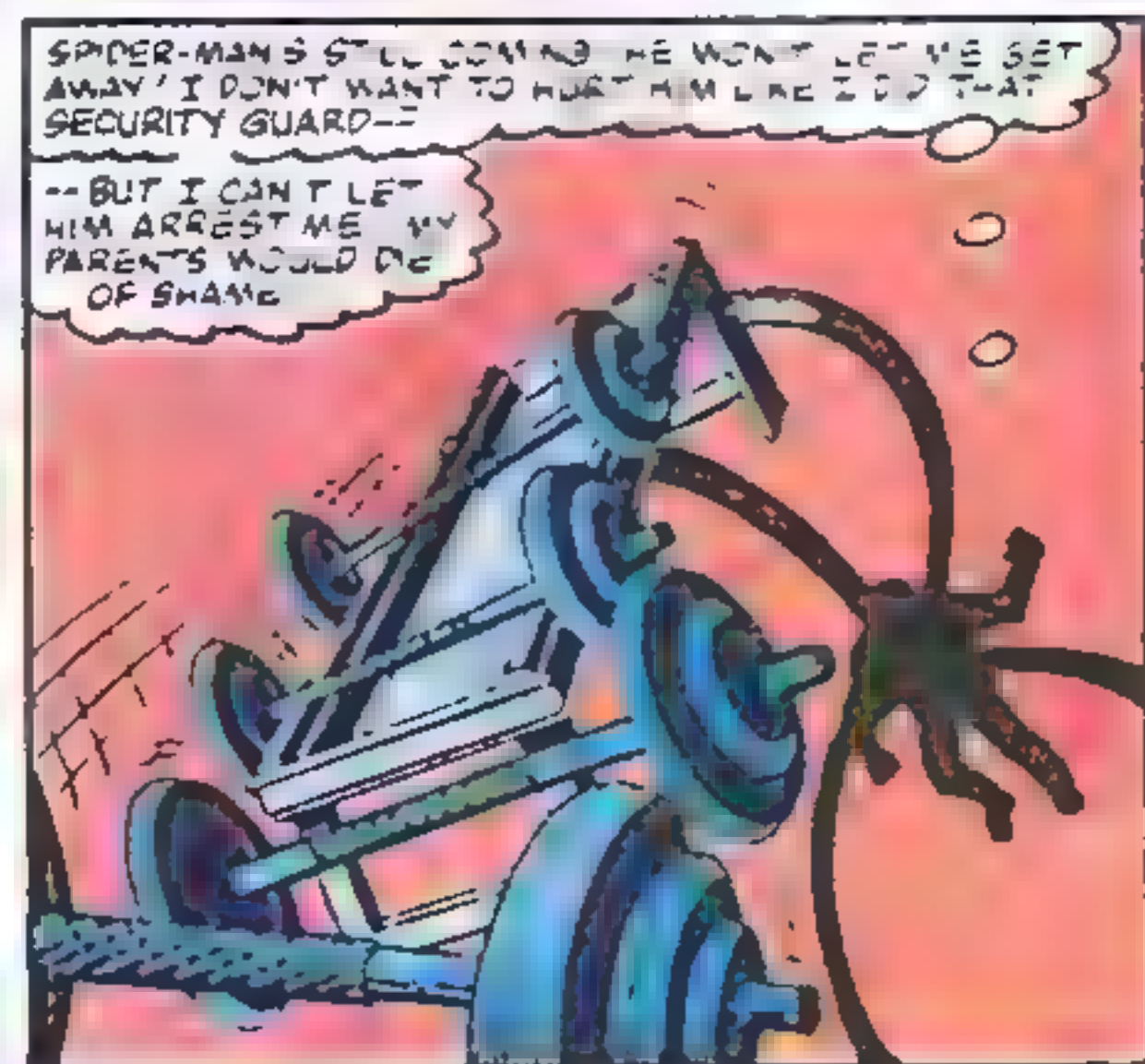
MY SPIDER-SENSE IS ALERTING ME TO DODGE 'EM IN TIME--



--BUT IT'S NOT REACTING AS IF I'M IN ANY REAL DANGER FROM OCTOPUS HIMSELF!

HAS OCK FOUND SOME WAY TO COUNTER MY SPIDER-SENSE?!

SPORTING GOODS

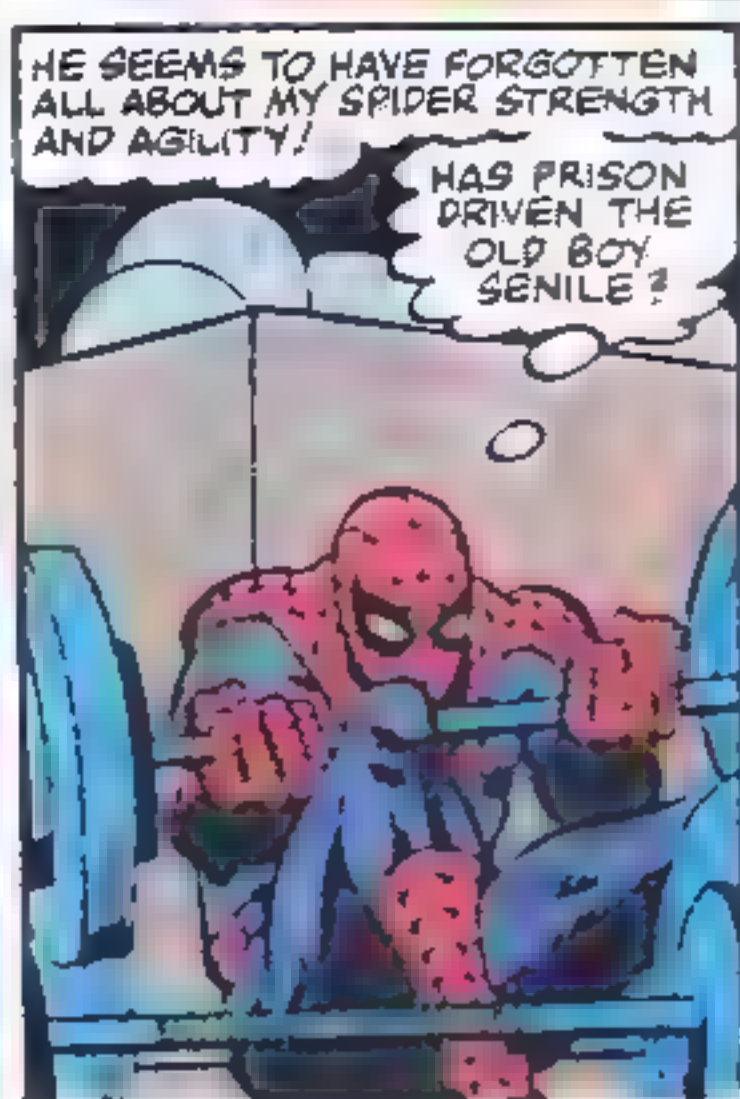


SPIDER-MAN'S STILL COMING HE WON'T LET ME GET AWAY! I DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM LIKE I DO THAT SECURITY GUARD--

--BUT I CAN'T LET HIM ARREST ME MY PARENTS WOULD BE OF SHAME



WHAT'S WITH DOC OCK? HE MUST KNOW THESE PAR-BALLS WON'T STOP ME



HE SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT MY SPIDER STRENGTH AND AGILITY!

HAS PRISON DRIVEN THE OLD BOY SENILE?



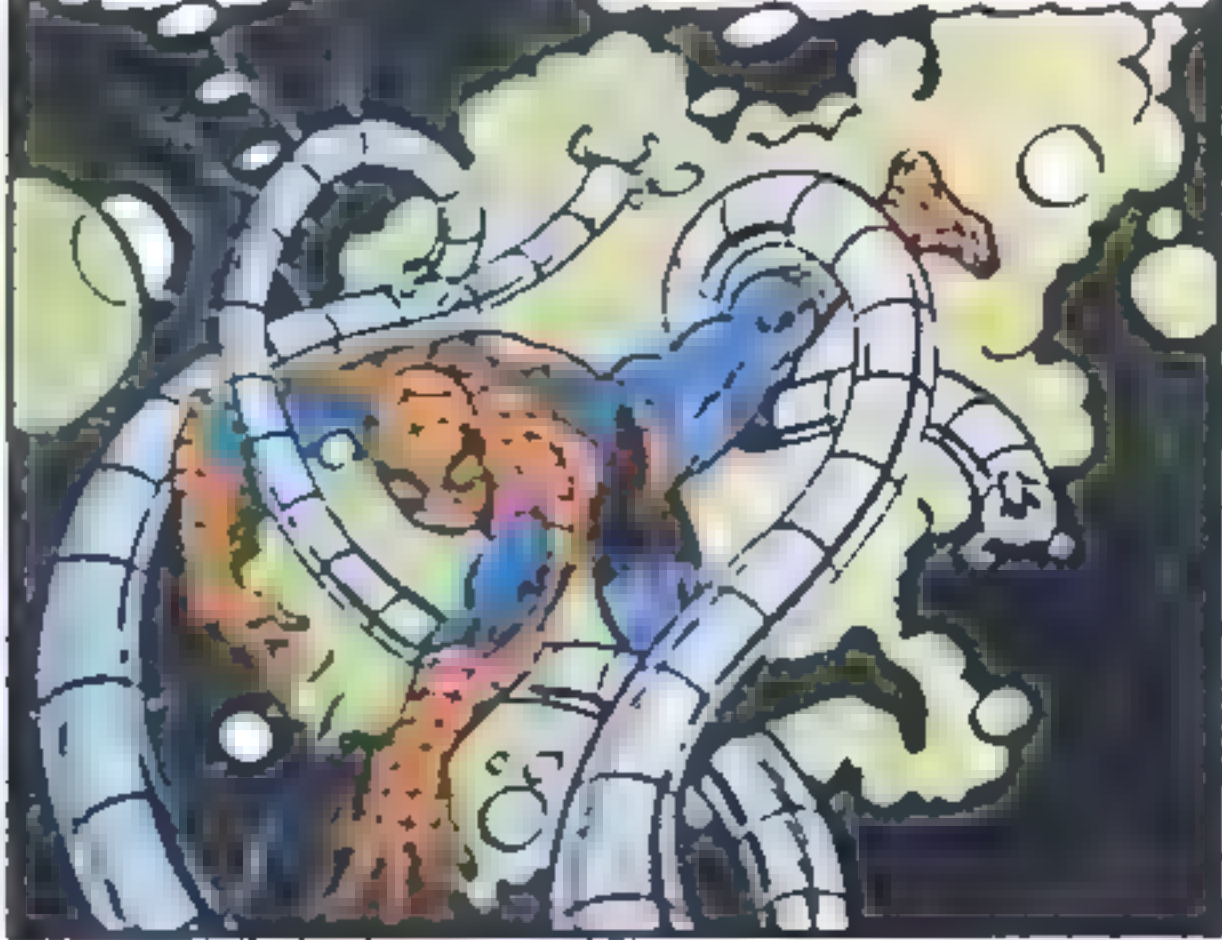
OH NO SPIDER-MAN IS GETTING UP AGAIN IF I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM HIM--

--MAYBE I CAN HIDE FROM HIM!

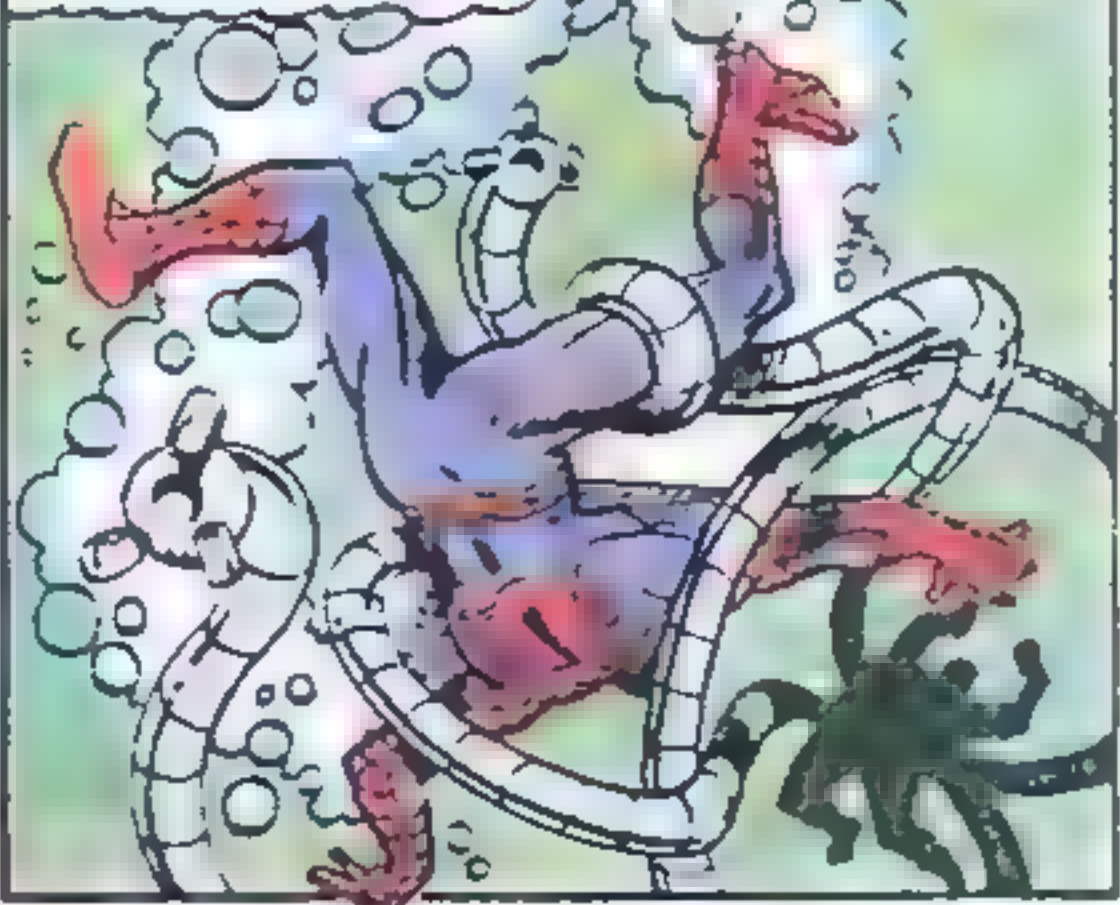


I'M OUT OF MY ELEMENT IN HERE

THERE IS NOTHING TO CLING TO! NO WAY I CAN USE MY SPEED OR AGILITY!

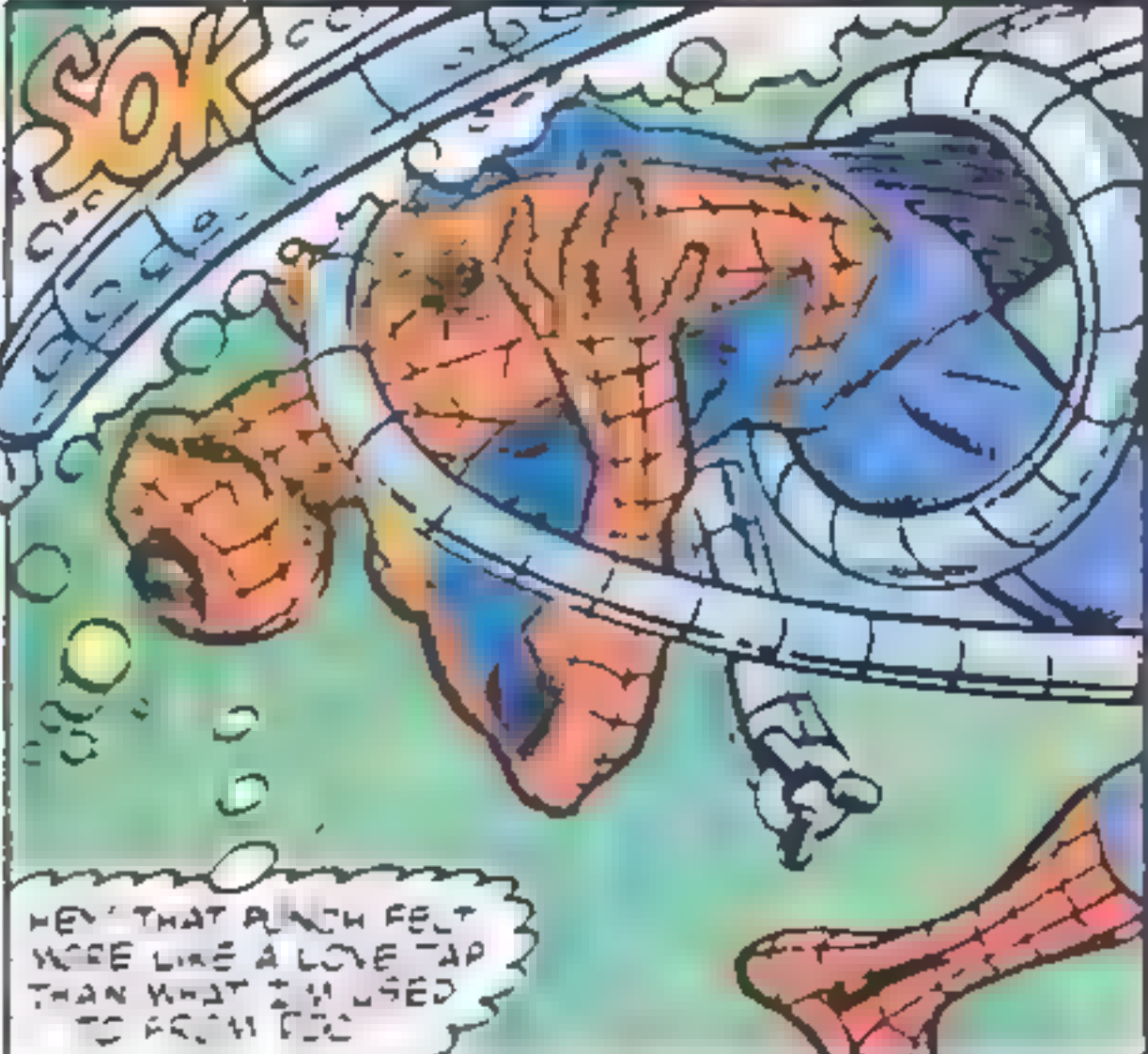


WITH HIS TENTACLES FLAILING ALL OVER THE PLACE DOC SHOULD FEEL RIGHT AT HOME!

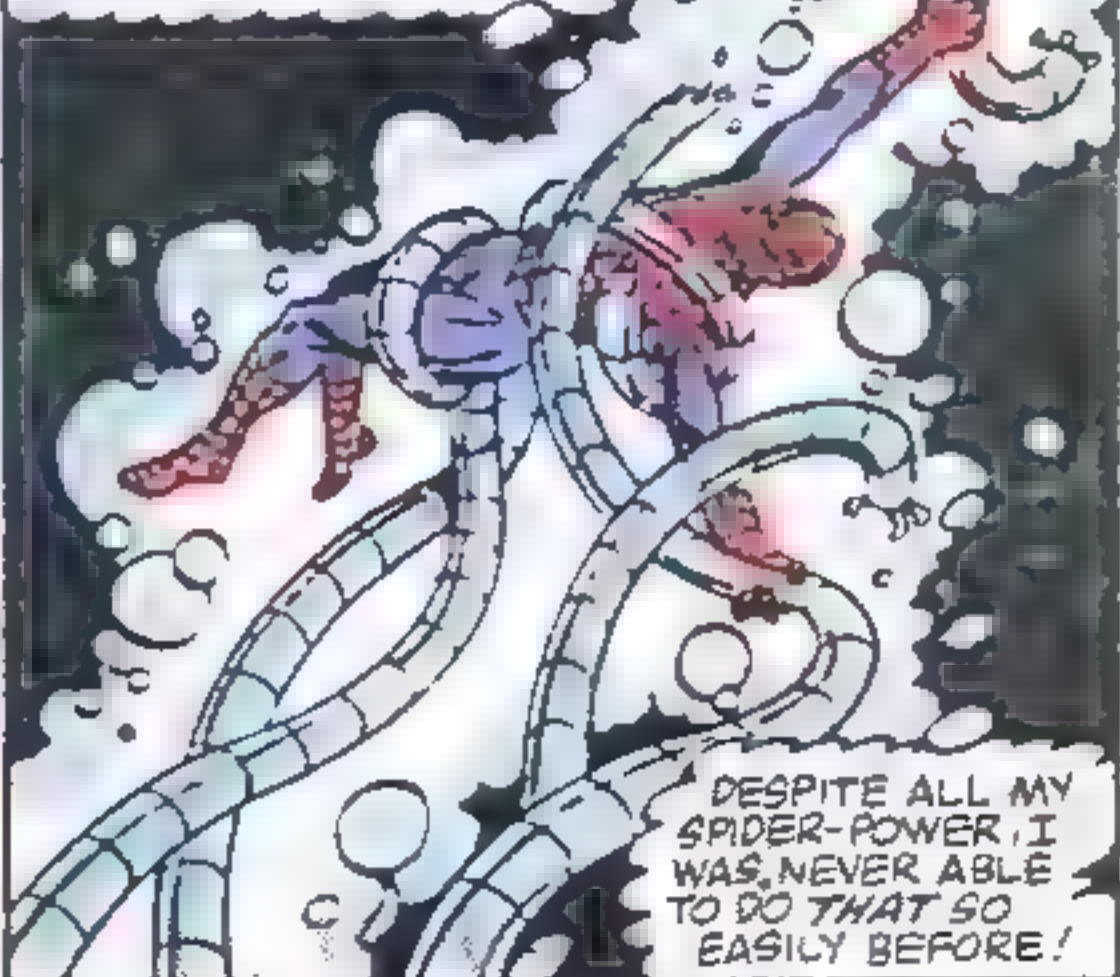


SOK

HEY! THAT PUNCH FELT MORE LIKE A LOVE TAP THAN WHAT I'VE USED TO FROM DOC



WHAT THE--?. I'VE JUST SHREDDED ONE OF DOC'S TENTACLE-ARMS IN TWO!



DESPITE ALL MY SPIDER-POWER, I WAS NEVER ABLE TO DO THAT SO EASILY BEFORE!

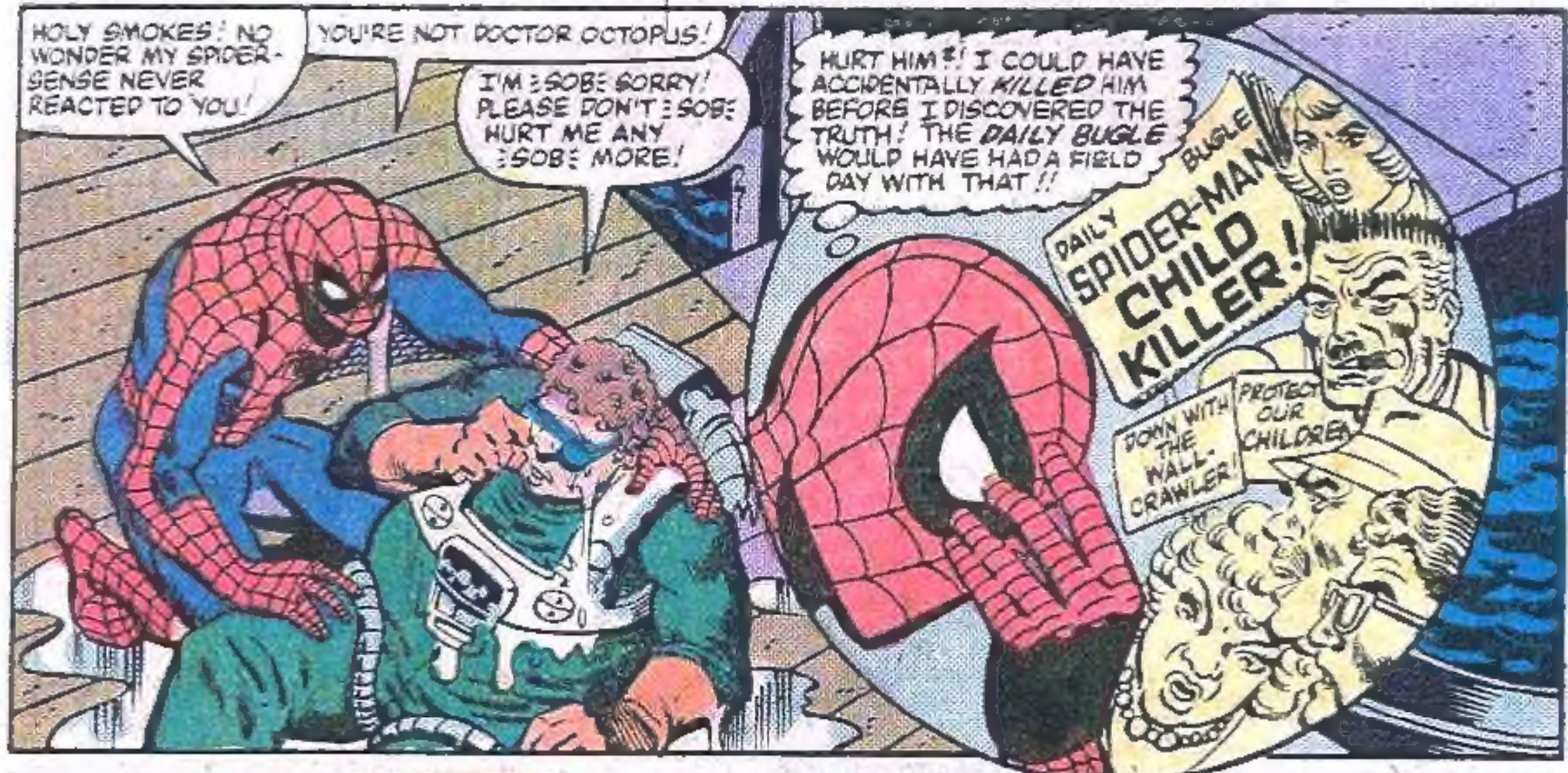
WHAT'S THIS--SOME KIND OF BACKPACK?

DR. OCTOPUS NEVER WORE A CONTRAPTION LIKE THIS BEFORE!



SOMETHING IS SERIOUSLY WRONG HERE--AND I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT JUST AS SOON AS WE GET OUT OF THIS OVERGROWN FISHBOWL





HOLY SMOKES! NO WONDER MY SPIDER-SENSE NEVER REACTED TO YOU!

YOU'RE NOT DOCTOR OCTOPUS!

I'M SO SORRY! PLEASE DON'T SOB! HURT ME ANY MORE!

HURT HIM? I COULD HAVE ACCIDENTALLY KILLED HIM BEFORE I DISCOVERED THE TRUTH! THE DAILY BUGLE WOULD HAVE HAD A FIELD DAY WITH THAT!!

DAILY BUGLE
SPIDER-MAN
CHILD KILLER!

DOWN WITH THE WALL-CRAWLER!

PROTECT OUR CHILDREN!



DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE TONIGHT, KID? YOU'VE BURGLARIZED TWO STORES, AND ALMOST MADE A MURDERER OUT OF ME!

YOU'RE LUCKY YOUR LITTLE CHARADE ENDED WHEN IT DID!

I'M NOT LUCKY! I'M DOOMED!

I-I ACCIDENTALLY KILLED THE NIGHT WATCHMAN!



OH, REALLY? HE LOOKS PRETTY HEALTHY TO ME!



YOU MUST HAVE ONLY STUNNED HIM!

FACE IT, KID! AS A SUPER-VILLAIN, YOU'RE A BUST!

WHAT ABOUT THE DAMAGE WE CAUSED? WILL MY PARENTS HAVE TO PAY FOR IT?

DON'T WORRY, KID! I'VE ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF IT!



"I JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE HAD A LITTLE EXTRA CASH TONIGHT! JUST HOPE THE SECURITY GUARD HAS A BLOW-DRYER HANDY!"

MUCH LATER...

OLLIE WON'T SAY WHERE HE WENT LAST NIGHT... AND, YOU KNOW, ZELDA, SOMEHOW I DON'T FEEL LIKE PRESSING HIM ON IT.

I KNOW, MILTON. OLLIE SEEMS LIKE A CHANGED BOY-- AND I'M TOO GRATEFUL FOR THAT CHANGE TO RISK REVERSING IT.

WE'VE GOT A SON TO BE PROUD OF NOW, ZELDA.

A SON WHO'S OUTGROWN HIS SILLY WORSHIP OF SUPER-POWERED VILLAINS.

VERY SOON, NOW--

--I'LL HAVE SYNTHESIZED A WEB-FLUID OF MY VERY OWN!

MEANWHILE, IN THE ALLEY BELOW...

TODAY'S NEWSPAPERS ARE FULL OF ACCOUNTS OF BURGLARIES THAT I SUPPOSEDLY PERPETRATED LAST NIGHT! BAH!

WHATS THAT IN THE TRASH...?

OCTOPUS ARMS-- CHEAP, IMITATION TIN CONSTRUCTS!

AND COUNTLESS POSTERS OF MYSELF-- ALL DEFACED!

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS...

...NOR DO I CARE!

ELSEWHERE...

YOU WANT ME
TO GO OVER
THEM AGAIN?
MY
FANTASIES?

WHY? YOU HAVE MY RECORDS
NOW. YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT
MY PAST. I'M A VERY UN-
STABLE PERSON, DOCTOR.

YOU SEE, I HAVE THIS...
DIFFICULTY... WITH SEPA-
RATING WHAT'S *REAL*
FROM WHAT *ISN'T*. THAT
MIGHT NOT SEEM IMPOR-
TANT TO YOU...

... BUT TRY TO IMAGINE
WHAT IT'S DOING TO *ME*--
TO MY ABILITY TO CARRY
ON A RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE BOY I THINK I LOVE!

DOCTOR, EITHER
PETER PARKER IS
SPIDER-MAN--

--OR I AM
HOPELESSLY
INSANE!

**NEXT
MONTH:**

MORE ON DEB WHITMAN'S DILEMMA!
MORE ON DOCTOR OCTOPUS! THE
RETURN OF ANOTHER OLD VILLAIN!
PLUS SOME INTERESTING NEW
PLOT TWISTS! DON'T MISS...

SPIDER IN THE MIDDLE!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR
LINDA GRANT
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Dear Tom,

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #66 was the best issue of this title that I've yet seen. It was also the best Marvel cover I've seen to date. I'm a relatively new reader, and I'd never seen Electro before, though I'd heard a lot about him. I was not disappointed with the Master of Electricity... not one single bit.

The story was terrific, too. I'm glad you're having Peter's grades go up. Even though the concept of Spider-Man (as Stan Lee put it in his ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS) is that of a hero with extraordinary powers who nevertheless loses more than he wins, Peter has been having too many problems lately. Keep his grades up! Don't have Marcy Kane stay mad at him! Have Pete rediscover Deb Whitman! (I'm getting sick of feeling sorry for her.)

That's all for now — see ya in thirty-one!

David Reitzes
1012 Weldin Circle
Wilmington, DE 19803

Dear Mr. DeFalco:

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #66 was excellent! I enjoyed witnessing the return of the ever-exciting Electro, but I was disappointed in Peter's just taking off on Marcy after all she'd done for him. Overall, though, a perfect job.

Brian Rupert
29 Devon Road
Chatham, Ontario
Canada N7L 3T7

Dear Tom:

Boy, has PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN improved! It's been improving since PPTSS #58, and it hasn't stopped! PPTSS #66 was the best issue yet!

Electro was always one of my very favorite Spider-Friends. Now you've brought him back more powerful than ever, and made me powerfully happy. Now, if you really want to please us fans, let's see the return of Light-Master, Boomerang, and the Vulture.

William Bynum
Rte 2 Box 100
Bryant, AL 35958

William, all three have appeared in the last year. Still happy?

Dear Editor:

The cover of SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #66 was absolutely fantastic. I loved the depiction of Spidey and Electro battling atop the EPIC ILLUSTRATED sign, with all those neon lights in the background. I also liked the innovative placement of the Comics Code Authority seal of approval, too.

How about more covers like this one in the future?

Marshall Nelson
115 Martin Drive
Barboursville, WV 25504

Thanks, Marshall. I agree that Ed Hannigan and Al Milgrom have been doing a SPECTACULAR job on the covers! And they haven't even hit stride, yet!

Dear Mr. DeFalco:

It seems that recently you have been producing exceptional issues of PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, and #66 continued that trend. The cover and inner art were terrific, and the plot, chronicling Electro's escape and return were sensational. It was also one of the cleverest, most intricate issues I've read in a long, long time — both plot and artwise.

While this issue had many good points, I also found some mistakes: Page 5 shows a newspaperman putting out the evening papers, but pages 18-22 show J. Jonah Jameson just preparing the Daily Bugle's Morning Edition and later, on the street, the citizenry just starting to read it. I also wonder how local television and radio stations could broadcast during the blackout, thus allowing Aunt May and Jameson to follow its course. Also, on page 11, Marla Madison's hair statics up. This shouldn't have happened while she was seated in a vehicle with rubber tires. Last but not least, Marla makes the remark that the phones have gone dead, yet Aunt May is shown as able to telephone Peter.

Well, otherwise, I thought this issue was absolutely great. Keep up the good work, but watch the details.

Billy Livingstone
1013 Fairground Drive
Salisbury, MD 21801

Believe it or not, Billy, I was watching the details. That newspaperman you refer to on page 5 is putting the evening papers away (not out) in preparation for the morning edition JJJ was in the process of preparing — and it's that morning edition a stunned citizenry was seen reading just moments after it was rushed out onto the streets. As for the blackout, no one said it was total. How could the neon signs have remained lit if it had been? No, the point of the blackout is that it tended to follow Electro as he selectively chose sources of power to tap. But, I must admit that you have me on the issue of Marla Madison's hair. I goofed on that one!

Dear Tom:

Being a fan of Marvel Comics since FANTASTIC FOUR #13, I felt that it was about time that I wrote. Why? Quite simply, PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN has become my favorite Marvel mag. I like reading about Peter Parker's life — his problems as opposed to his alter-ego's problems.

How about giving Pete a break for a change? Let Deb Whitman or Marcy Kane find out that he's Spidey. It may not make any difference to either of them, or stand in the way of a possible romance. Then again, there is always the irrepressible Black Cat. We all know she's gonna return. Cats have nine lives, you know.

I almost forgot — PPTSS #66 was what I expected — a darned good comic!

John Brittain
11 Fleetwood Drive
Daly City, CA 94015

Dear Tom:

PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #66 was as near perfect an issue as any I have ever seen.

First off, the cover was beautiful, so eye-catching that I bought three issues of the comic.

Ed Hannigan and Jim Mooney get better with each issue, and they are really turning out some top-notch work. I seem to notice Ed's use of interesting angles (the cover, for example) more so than any other artist. Ed seems to want to show us action from various points of view, not just to look straight onto it. His clever use of angles almost gives the book a 3-D effect.

My feelings for Bill Mantlo's writing ability have been mentioned in previous letters — I think he's great. I just wish that my imagination were as fertile as his.

Finally, let me add my voice to the growing crowd of people who want to see a steady relationship for Peter Parker. For the last few months we've been told to keep watching for further developments. All I want to know is: when? How long must I wait (not to mention how much longer poor Peter must wait)? For a while it looked like Debra Whitman, then Marcy Kane was in the running, and even the superb Black Cat has, of late, popped up... so c'mon guys, let's get down to some real romance!

If you could manage it, how about Deb Whitman on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Marcy on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and Felicia Hardy on weekends?

Roger Myers
45 Winchgrove Road
Priestwood II
Bracknell, Berks
RG12 2EJ England

Now, Roger, you don't really expect me to regiment Peter's love life, do you? Let's face it — when it comes to romance, Peter's going to have to make his own decisions.

Dear Editor:

At a forum on comics at New York University in December, 1981, Jim Shooter praised PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN as one of Marvel's best comics. The economy being what it is, I had to drop this title a while back, but when Mr. Shooter says it's good I'm going to buy it.

Well, having read your last few issues... I'm hooked! Bill's handling of Spider-Man is great, but I'd like to see a little bit more of Peter Parker at home, at school, at play, etc. Ed Hannigan is also doing a fine job. The art in PPTSS #66 was really dramatic... and what storytelling!

Now I'm looking forward to Al Milgrom's arrival on the inking front.

In a fanzine interview, Tom, you stated that it was your intention to revive the Lee-Ditko excitement. Here's hoping you do!

Gabe Carras
21 Station Road
Great Neck, NY 11023

Well, Gabe, what do you think? How am I doing?

TOM DeFALCO